THE WEEKLY COMMERCIAL

A LARGE SHEET CONTAINING ALL THE CURRENT NEWS, MISCELLANEOUS, LITERARY AND SCIENTIFIC INTELLIGENCE AND VALUABLE READING FOR THE FAMILY.

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Per Year, (52 issues) $2 00
In Clubs of Twenty 1 50

One copy grails to the getter-up of the Club.

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COMMERCIAL, PITTSBURGH.

The Pittsburgh Commercial.

VOL. VII.---NO. 30. WEEKLY EDITION. MAY 28, 1870.

INTERNAL TAXES.

General Schenck's Bill to Reduce Taxation.

No Reduction in Income Tax—Exemption Increased to $1,500—Tax on Banks and Bankers, Brewers, Distillers, &c., &c.

The following is an abstract of the bill to reduce internal taxes and for other purposes, reported by General Schenck in the House of Representatives on Monday. It contains forty-six sections, under the class of special taxes, Banks or banks, with a capital not exceeding $50,000, are required to pay a tax of $100. When the capital is in excess of $50,000, two dollars additional for every $1,000. Savings banks are exempted from this tax. An additional tax of 1-24 of 1 per cent. per month is imposed upon the average amount of deposits, other than public moneys of the United States, and a tax of 1/4 of 1 per cent. each month on the average amount of public money in their possession, and a tax of 1-24 of 1 per cent. of their capital, and a tax of 1-24 of 1 per cent. per month on circulation; provided that this provision shall not apply to associations which are taxed under the act "to provide additional currency secured by a pledge of United States bonds, and to provide for the circulation and redemption thereof."

Every National banking association or other corporation engaged in banking is further required to pay a tax of 10 per cent. on the amount of notes used for circulation and paid out by them. Brokers, banks and bankers are taxed 2 cents upon each $100.

Sales of stocks, bonds gold and notes, or other securities and on sales without the payment of aspecial tax as brokers, bank or bankers, 1 cent for every $100. Every commercial brokers pay a special tax of $5,00 when their sales do not exceed $1,000,000, and $5 for each additional $1,000. Pawnbrokers and agents are taxed $50 each. Claim agents pay $10 when their receipts do not exceed $1,000, and $50 for each additional $1,000. Patent-right dealers pay $50. Pawnbrokers, whose capital employed does not exceed $1,000, pay $20, and for each $1,000 additional, $2. Hotel keepers are rated from $10 to $500, according to the certain, or estimated yearly rental, of the property as follows: When the yearly rental is $100 and $1 for each additional $100. Theatrical and other rental. Placesof public amusements are taxed: For first class, $25; for second class, $15; for third class, $10; for fourth class, $5; for each additional $100 or less, $10, and $5 for each additional $100 for first class; $20 for second class; $15 for third class; $10 each; for second class, $20 each; for third class, $15 each. Rooms or halls occasionally hired or used for dramatic or musical exhibitions or performances, or for concerts, balls or exhibitions are rated at the same amount of the permanently located building, used for any exhibition, performance, show or entertainment, for which admission is charged, and pay a tax of 3 per cent. on the gross receipts.

Sellers of exhibitions, curiosities, art exhibitions not moved about, agricultural and horticultural fairs, and exhibitions for benevolent or religious purposes are exempted.

Bowling alleys and billiard rooms pay $20 for each alley or table. Lottery dealers and dealers in lottery tickets, $100. Lottery managers and dealers pay an additional tax of three per cent. on their gross receipts. Auctioneers are taxed $500.

Distillers producing 25 or less barrels of distilled spirits per annum are taxed $100, $1 for each additional tarrel in excess of 25. All are assessed upon each such spirits while in the bonded warehouse, to be paid when withdrawn. Rectifiers of distilled spirits purifying or compounding less than 200 barrels per annum are taxed $200, and $1 additional for all in excess of 200 barrels. Retail liquor dealers whose sales do not exceed $2,500, are required to pay $25; over $2,500 and not exceeding $5,000, $50; over $5,000 and not exceeding $10,000 $100; over $10,000 and not exceeding $20,000, $200; if exceeding $20,000, $1,000. Wholesale liquor dealers, for $2,000 or less, $50, and $25 for each $1,000 sale in excess of $2,000. Manufacturers of stills pay a tax of $50 and $20 for each still or worm made by them.

Brewers are taxed $100. Dealers in leaf tobacco whose annual sales do not exceed $10,000 are taxed 12c if more than $10,000 and $1 for each additional $1,000. Dealers in tobacco whose annual sales do not exceed $25,000, are $2 for each additional $1,000. Manufacturers of tobacco pay each $10, and $2 for each $1,000 in ex cess of $5,000 if their sales exceed that amount. Manufacturers of cigars whose sales do not exceed $5,000, pay $10, and $2 for each $1,000 in excess of $5,000.

The sum of $5 is levied for each passport issued in the office of the Secretary of State, or by any Minister or Consul of the United States.

Several of the sections relate to supplying stamps and against counterfeiting.

Schedule B provides that on a check, draft or order, 2 cents.

On exchange, landing draft, or order for the payment of any sum of money not exceeding $10, 5 cents.

Bill of exchange, foreign or letter of credit, 2 cents, and for every additional $100 or fractional part, 2 cents. Bills of lading, 2 cents each.

Bill of sale, 50 cents. Exceeding $500, and not exceeding $1,000, $1. Exceeding $1,000, and for every additional amount of $500 or fractional part, 50 cents. Deed, 50 cents. Mortgage, same rates of deed. Lease, not exceeding $1,000 or fractional part, 50 cents. Bonds for the due execution of offices, or for the faithful duties of any office, $1. Bond of any description other than such as may be required in legal proceedings, 50 cents.

Certificate of stock, 25 cents. Certificate of profit, 10 cents; exceeding $100, 5 cents for every additional $1,000, 25 cents. Other certificates, 25 cents. Certificate of damage, not exceeding $100, 2 cents; exceeding $100, 5 cents. Charter contract or agreement, $1; exceeding $50 cents and not exceeding $100, $2; exceeding 100 tons and not exceeding 600 tons, $5; exceeding 600 tons, $10.

Brokers' note, or memorandum of sale, 10 cents; conveyance, 50 cents. When the consideration does not exceed $100, 25 cents; for every additional $500, 50 cents. Entry of any goods, wares or merchandise, not exceeding $100 and not exceeding $500 in value, 5 cents; exceeding $500, $1. Other changes are made in the schedule.

Medicine and preparations in Schedule C are taxed, when the value does not exceed 20 cents, and every additional 20 cents, or fractional part thereof, 1 cent. Friction matches, when the value 25 cents, 1 cent; and for every additional 25 cents, or fractional part, 1 cent. Friction matches, 100 or less, 1 cent; exceeding 100, 1 cent. Wax tapers, 25 lights or less, 1 cent. Playing cards, 1 cent a pack.

That there shall be levied and collected annually a tax of 5 per centum upon the gains, profits and income derived from any business, trade or profession carried on in the United States, and of every citizen of the United States residing abroad, derived from any source whatever, whether within or without the United States, and of every person residing without the United States, and not within those limits, derived from any source whatever, whether within or without the United States, and of every person residing in the United States and not within those limits, being engaged in any trade, profession or vocation, including any amount received as salary or pay for service in the civil, military, naval or other service of the United States, or as Senator, Representative or Delegate to Congress. Gains and profits, whether divided or not, of all companies or partnerships, but not including the amount received from any corporation whose officers are authorized by law to withhold the income tax on account of the dividends made and of interest of coupon paid by such corporation, and the gains realized in the year from the sales of real estate purchased within two years previous to the year for which the income is returned, and the profits of sales of live stock, sugar, wool, butter, cheese, pork, beef, mutton, agricultural implements, grain, fruits, vegetables or other productions, being the growth or produce of the estate of such person, but not including any amount of consumed directly by the family; and all other gains, profits and income derived from any source whatever, but not including the value of the use of property occupied by any person or by his family. The military or naval pensions to any person under the laws of the United States, and the sum of one thousand five hundred dollars of the gains, profits and income of every person shall be exempt from said income tax. Only one such deduction shall be made from the aggregate income of all persons living together, composed of one or both parents and one or more minor children, or of husband and wife when a wife has by law a separate income, and if living separate and apart from husband, no deduction shall there be made from his income, gains and profits; and guardians and trustees shall be allowed to make such deduction in favor of each ward or beneficiary, except that in case of two or more wards or beneficiaries, composed in one family, having joint property interest, only one deduction shall be made in their favor. For the purpose of allowing said deduction from the income of any religious or social community consisting of persons living and the income therefrom, jointly and in common, each ten of the persons composing such society, and any remainder of such number of such persons not less than five, over such gross of ten, shall be taken to constitute a family, and a deduction of $1,500 shall be allowed for each of said families from the income of the said society, and the profits of such societies now due and unpaid shall be assessed and collected according to the provisions of this act. In addition to exemptions there shall be deducted all national, State and municipal taxes, fees and annual machine ry for collecting is stated, and fines imposed for violations of the law as at present. There is a provision that the Assistant Assessor shall permit to be published the names of any persons making returns, or any part thereof, except under such rules and regulations as the Commissioner of Internal Revenue may prescribe. There shall be levied and collected a tax of five per centum on the amount of all interest or coupons paid on bonds or other evidences of debt issued and payable after more than two years from the first day of January, of dividends or earnings, incomes or gains hereafter declared by any corporation, banks, trust companies, savings institution, insurance company, railroad company, railroad or steamboat or steamship company, turnpike company, canal navigation company, slack water company, manufacturing company, gas company, water gas company and bridge company, whenever and wherever the same may be due, including non-residents, whether citizens or aliens, and on all undivided profits of any such corporation, which have accrued and been earned and added to any surplus, contingent or other fund.

The recent mysterious drop in Reading stock is accounted for by the statement of a woman in the case, a shrewd down East Yankee lady, and reported to be a millionaire who takes a "flyer" in Wall street twice a year. Six months ago, when the stock was down in the vicinity of 90 to 95, she made her usual semi-annual purchase of 1,000 shares, for which she carried patient y until the rise to 105 the other day enabled her to sell at a magnificent profit.

A new variety of blackberry has been obtained by Rufus K. Fletcher, of Groton Junction, in Massachusetts, called the new thornless Wachusett blackberry, which, according to the testimony of M. Daniel Needham, Secretary of the New England Agricultural Society, and others, is of very high promise. It is described as perfectly hardy, very productive, void of a fine, high flavor, and though not without them, they are so short as to occasion no inconvenience. The berry also fills it the best blackberry he has ever tasted.

Major Wm. C. Barney is in Washington, from Belgium, to secure the permission of Congress to land on our shores a submarine cable from Belgium. He already has leave to land the cable on the coast of New Jersey. He says the stockholders are American capitalists; that they offer to allow the United States twenty minutes in every twenty-four hours, in which to transmit messages, and that they ask no subsidy.

RAILWAY MATTERS.

Baltimore, Pittsburgh and Continental Railroad.

Extension of the Chartiers Valley Road to Wheeling—New Road from Washington City to Cleveland—Other Items of General Interest.

—A correspondent of the Canton *Repository* says: "The corporate privileges of this company (the Baltimore, Pittsburgh and Continental) extend across the State of Ohio, beginning at a point near Smith's ferry on the Ohio river, running through the counties of Columbiana, Stark, Carroll, Tuscarawas, Holmes, Richland, thence westward to the State line, near the St. Mary's reservoir. The object sought to be attained is to form a great western thoroughfare from Baltimore to Omaha, connecting the eastern terminus of the Pacific road with the Baltimore connection at Pittsburgh, with lateral roads to other important points. By the preliminary survey, recently completed by Mr. Wadsell, the engineer, the distance from Pittsburgh west to Hanover is about seventy miles, to Orrville seventy, to Waynesburgh eighty, to Bolivar, Tuscarawas county, ninety; Wilmot, Stark county, one hundred, and to Belleville, on the Sandusky and Newark road, one hundred and fifty-five miles. This road has not yet been formally adopted, but it is reported favorable, of easier grade, more direct, and passing through a country abounding in timber, stone, coal, iron ore, and agricultural resources unsurpassed by any other line in the State, while the distance to points westward on the same meridian is considerably reduced. For instance, from Pittsburgh to Akron, on the Ohio canal, the distance is ninety miles, while on the Marietta & Cincinnati road it is one hundred and eight miles. General Beatty, the agent of the company, on the route securing the right of way, contracting for stone quarries, and otherwise advancing the interests of the company, and he says the cars are coming. This looks like business. When the line takes place the Ohio will hardly pay forty-nine dollars for a cattle car from Canton to Pittsburgh, neither will the productions of the rich bottoms and plains of Delmar be waggoned over the hills to Canton nor Wilmot get her iron and lumber at Massillon. The capital of "Old Monty Stark" had better put a switch to this grand trunk and get out of the cinches of the Pennsylvania Central. I should have noticed that a road has recently been projected under oath from Lexington west to Belleville to Toledo, and that the Baltimore and Ohio Company own the Newark and Sandusky road."

—The Bethany (W. Va.) *Guardian* says: A project is on foot to build a railroad from Washington, Pennsylvania, through Southern West Virginia, via Bethany and Wellsburg—a continuation of the Chartiers Valley Road from Pittsburgh. The proposed route is a very feasible one, and there is much local interest by the people all along the line. An enthusiastic meeting was held in Bethany to devise ways and means for the work to begin. There was a large turn out of the substantial and well-to-do citizens, and a good many from Wellsburg townships, and a good delegation from Washington county. A committee was appointed to solicit subscriptions for the right of way from the property holders and solicit other subscriptions for stock. Before the meeting pledged itself to use its best endeavors to secure not less than $100,000 in Brooke county for the right of way, and means of a railroad, look, just now, very flattering.

The engineer for the new inland railroad, connecting Cincinnati with the Chesapeake an Ohio Road, is stationed at Portsmouth, Ohio. The *Tribune*, of that place, says that the engineer, Mr. C. J. Questel, speaks in very encouraging terms of the progress he has passed over, and says that it presents a much easier grade than the canal route to Cincinnati.

Mr. Questel left Portsmouth on Monday afternoon to examine the hill route between Unionville and Turkey Creek, so as to give an opinion as to the difference between it and the route along the Ohio river. He says he can strike Portsmouth from the hill route within four miles. He takes the distance between his starting point at Cincinnati and Portsmouth by the hill route at two or three more miles, and allowing ten miles for curves, he is sanguine that the distance will not exceed ninety miles. The highest grade at one point (Mt. Washington) will be sixty-six feet, and the average highest not over fifty feet to the mile. The curves are long and easy, and the ground well adapted to a great through route.

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—A meeting of the friends of the Lancaster and New Danville road was held in the former city on the 17th inst. The charter of the company was read and accepted. Mr. Steinman, chairman of the committee appointed to secure a route, made a report, which was approved. The following gentlemen were elected managers, Jacob L. Hess, D. K. Wolf, Martin B. Herr, Rudolph Herr, Michael Hoover, Andrew Sherger and Abraham Kendig, the board of incorporation, are commissioners to open books, take subscriptions and receive the money. The books were opened and a considerable amount subscribed. The meeting then stood adjourned, to meet at the same place on Saturday, May 28, at two o'clock.

—The work of grading the Marietta and Pittsburgh Railroad is being pushed forward rapidly since spring opened, and the prospect now is that the road will be completed and ready for the superstructure by the 1st of June. Contractor Turner, at the Hallidays, has arrangements for locomotives and cars, to be delivered by the 1st of June. The Marietta and Cincinnati Railroad will also lay a track on the bridge to be built across the Ohio river between Marietta and Harmar, to connect with the Duck Creek road.

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The work on the line of this road thirty-four miles from Marietta to the coal fields in Perry county, is progressing rapidly. The grading on the first three miles from Marietta is completed, and the bridge across the Muskingum is now under way. The bridge when the track laying is to begin at the point. The road is under contract to be done by July 1st. Beyond that—six miles from town—the grading was mostly done for the entire line to Caldwell will be finished by the 1st of July. The track-laying for the entire line to Caldwell will be finished by the 1st of August. The road will reach it, starting from Marietta, June 15th. The timbers for the trestles and bridges are contracted for, and is mostly already on. The Marietta Rolling Mill begins making the iron for the road in a few days. The contract to receive for the road has been contracted for in Baltimore, to be finished in June. The locomotives, it is confidently believed, will be running from Marietta to Caldwell, by New Year's Day.

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GOICOURIA'S LAST HOURS.

Interview with De Rodas Before the Execution—Brutality of the Officers Composing the Court—Horrible Scenes at the Garrote—Thirty Thousand Spectators, &c.

(Havana Correspondence (May 11) New York World.)

The execution of General Domingo Goicouria on last Saturday is yet a leading subject of conversation and discussion in this city of Havana. I have additional particulars as to his capture and execution, that I think may not prove uninteresting to your readers, particularly as the unfortunate old man they reate to was so well known in your city. When captured, General Goicouria had been on the Guajaba Key nearly five days, and most of the time had had nothing more than land crabs to eat, and had been without water for nearly twenty-four hours. He had become separated from the companions who landed upon the Key with him two days before, and they were having gone to search for water, and probably were afterwards unable to find their way back to him. When the Spaniards landed their troops they formed them into skirmishers, and thoroughly secured the Key, which is about half a mile wide, by drawing a line across it, and then they were preparing to give up the search when two sailors, who had lingered behina, noticed the General, he having changed his position, Sandusky and Newark road, one hundred and fifty-five miles. This road has not yet been formally adopted, but it is reported favorable, of easier grade, more direct, and passing through a country abounding in timber, stone, coal, iron ore, and agricultural resources unsurpassed by any other line in the State, while the distance to points westward on the same meridian is considerably reduced. For instance, from Pittsburgh to Akron, on the Ohio canal, the distance is ninety miles, while on the Marietta & Cincinnati road it is one hundred and eight miles. General Beatty, the agent of the company, on the route securing the right of way, contracting for stone quarries, and otherwise advancing the interests of the company, and he says the cars are coming. This looks like business. When the line takes place the Ohio will hardly pay forty-nine dollars for a cattle car from Canton to Pittsburgh, neither will the productions of the rich bottoms and plains of Delmar be waggoned over the hills to Canton nor Wilmot get her iron and lumber at Massillon. The capital of "Old Monty Stark" had better put a switch to this grand trunk and get out of the cinches of the Pennsylvania Central. I should have noticed that a road has recently been projected under contract from Lexington west to Belleville to Toledo, and that the Baltimore and Ohio Company own the Newark and Sandusky road."

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THE BOY AT CHURCH.

Beecher's Boyhood Experience—The Great Preacher's First Impressions of Sunday and Pulpit Exercises—Gaining Paradise by a Nap.

Henry Ward Beecher gives the following account of his experience in going to meeting when a boy: The old Litchfield, Conn., "meeting house" was in the middle of the "Green," very nearly at the intersection of the two main avenues of the town. There it stood, solitary and homely. There was not a single line or feature in it suggesting taste or beauty. But that which the architect had neglected, the worshipers supplied. The hearts of thousands of men and women who had worshiped there from childhood to old age had thrown the color of the deepest feelings upon the gaunt old church, and doubtless, in their eyes, the old wooden meeting house looked more beautiful than did the Parthenon to the Greeks.

The building was square, with two stories of windows and a steep roof, on which snow had hard work to lie in Winter. The windows were large, with panes of glass six by eight inches, held in sashes and sticks, upon which external objects were seen by our young eyes in the most grotesque distortion.

I have known the Sunday night was always a serious business with the youngsters. We had no stories of religious experience on which it is presumed the old folks meditated; and the prospect of a whole day without anything in it to interest a boy was appalling. Then, as the sexton began to ring the bell for meeting, he began to ring it in the belfry lower we did not know, but something that made our flesh creep. Once or twice a month, in Winter, he was so bold and venturesome a thing, we knew. But a more terrible and striking, though rarer, event was the following: We pulled again. Dong dong went the bell. The old sexton put his head out of the door and looked at the sky, and observed that it was hazy, and said, in a very solemn and low tone, that he "guessed" it was going to rain, and much more I presume, but I did not wait for it, but ran around to the other door, and sat in the pew, and looked out of the window to see whether he would "tell my pa," and if he did whether he would "lick me" when we got home, as he would do. I called up the probable interview. It was not pleasant to anticipate. I had found a possible experience, and afflicted my little soul, all meeting time, with needless painful solicitude about it.

But ordinarily we escaped into the minister's pew with a feeling of safety. It was filled by eight years old, round as an apple, hearty and healthy, an hour and a half in church with his feet dangling all the time. Then the families of boys and girls, and wished we might go into the broad aisle and "play tag." Creeping, traced all the cracks back and forth. We took a look at the galleries, and wished we were there, and at the singers, and wished we were in church, fanning themselves with one hand and eating fennel seed or a bit of dried orange peel with the other. We looked out of the window high above our head into the clouds, and saw the sun, like a ball of fire, shining on trees and horses and dogs that abounded around the church on Sunday.

Gradually these died away, and we dropped asleep. Blessed liberty! the child's gospel. All troubles left us in sleep. The minister's office was gained. But then an unusually thumping bass voice, or a sharp treble, or the rear of a voice under full excitement, that went on swelling like a trumpet, and that no body but the Bishop of Long Island could keep from catching its excitement, waked us, blushing that we had been caught napping. Then the boys were caused by men, who knew they had done wrong, but were endeavoring to justify themselves by claiming their action to be a virtuous effort to keep the boys from sleeping, and by blackening the character of those who had done nothing. In this event they were determined that no Southern-born man who had remained true to his country should bear reproach from the mouth of a Northern traitor. A second abuse could effect a stain upon it."

Another correspondent, showing the opinion of the authors of these slanders, and his own views at the breaking out of the rebellion, it is well to give also. It is as follows: "In a discussion upon the treason of Arnold, one of the officers who deserted the Government at the rebellion, I ventured the assertion that Arnold was by no means the basest traitor. In meeting time we often put our little hands into each other's pockets, and left something for whom intended, he resigned himself to the inevitable. Then President Lincoln was soon despatched, dying without any apparent struggles. His body was kept in the garrison during the night, and was guarded by a regiment of colored troops, presenting an affecting spectacle. Nothing he said was understood, though everybody thinks he understood it. Then came *Andrew Johnson*." Apparently nettled at the success of the Spaniards in their endeavors to find the boy reaching those for whom intended, he resigned himself to the inevitable. Then President Lincoln was soon despatched, dying without any apparent struggles. His body was kept in the garrison during the night, and was guarded by a regiment of colored troops, presenting an affecting spectacle. Nothing he said was understood, though everybody thinks he understood it. Then came *Andrew Johnson*." Apparently nettled at the success of the Spaniards in their endeavors to find the boy reaching those for whom intended, he resigned himself to the inevitable. Then President Lincoln was soon despatched, dying without any apparent struggles. His body was kept in the garrison during the night, and was guarded by a regiment of colored troops, presenting an affecting spectacle. Nothing he said was understood, though everybody thinks he understood it. Then came *Andrew Johnson*."

Recent discoveries of diamonds in Australia and South Africa, first ridiculed and doubted, are now beginning to attract serious attention as established facts. Our most authentic information on the subject comes from the Austrian Consul at the Cape of Good Hope, who writes specifically of the mineral district covers a territory fifteen hundred kilos in extent, and that every new arrival reports discoveries at new points, though it is admitted that the richest mines are those on the banks of Likatlong, near the frontier of the province of Griqua-land West and the Orange Free State. Lest this should be set down as mere hearsay, he says that he has found on his own property bits of the first water, and that he has also a half karat, while another of forty-six karats was found by a native Griqua, and sold for twenty-eight thousand francs. He had another weighing one hundred and fifty carats, which he was broken, and he has a piece of it in his possession weighing twenty-three and a half karats. The Cape Town *Argus* reports that a native discovered the river Vaal, is reported to have discovered a mine of diamonds associated with garnets, topaz, and other precious stones. English journals fully confirm these reports, and leave no doubt as to the discoveries.

A patent mixture for sprinkling streets consisting of cloride of calcium (not chloride of lime) and common salt dissolved in water, has been patented in England. The cloride of lime is of his person was required, and then the question arose as to who should be executioner. The most brutal members of the court wanted a man tied to the tail of a horse and dragged through the streets until dead, but to prevent this, another brute asked that he be tied to a stake and riddled with balls. The old sexton put his head out of the door, and said, in a very solemn and low tone, that he "guessed" it was going to rain, and much more I presume, but I did not wait for it, but ran around to the other door, and sat in the pew, and looked out of the window to see whether he would "tell my pa," and if he did whether he would "lick me" when we got home, as he would do. I called up the probable interview. It was not pleasant to anticipate. I had found a possible experience, and afflicted my little soul, all meeting time, with needless painful solicitude about it.

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GEN. GEORGE H. THOMAS.

His Steadfast Loyalty—Letter from One of His Staff.

[From the Alta California.]

The letter of Fitzhugh Lee to the Richmond *Dispatch*, which appears in your columns today, is but a repetition of the oft-repeated slander upon General Thomas that was a favorite article during the war. After the close of the war, and Southern papers became accessible to the people of the whole country, these slanders ceased, as General Thomas could too easily refute them; but now that the great man is dead, it is thought safe to renew them.

It is known to all who knew General Thomas, that one of his great characteristics was truthfulness, entire truthfulness, without reservation, and it is for the people of the United States to judge between what he said on this subject while living, and what the enemies of our country say, now that he is dead.

As a confidential staff officer, one of his Aids-de-camp, I had the privilege of having many conversations with General Thomas upon matters relating to the rebellion. The more important of these conversations I made note of at the time, with his knowledge and consent. Among them is one on the subject of Fitzhugh Lee's letter, which I here copy from my note book:

"A slander upon the General was often repeated in the Southern papers during and immediately subsequent to the rebellion. It was given upon the authority of prominent rebel officers, and not denied by them; it was to the effect that he was appointed in not getting a high command in the rebel army he had sought for, because he took no part in the rebellion. In a conversation with him on this subject, the General said this was an entire fabrication, not having an atom of foundation; not a line ever passed between him and the rebel authorities; they had no genuine letters of his, nor was a word spoken by him to any one that could even lead to such an inference. He defied any one to produce any testimony, written or oral, to sustain such an allegation; he never entertained a thought for his duty was clear to him from the beginning. He said these slanders were caused by men, who knew they had done wrong, but were endeavoring to justify themselves by claiming their action to be a virtuous effort to keep the boys from sleeping, and by blackening the character of those who had done nothing. In this event they were determined that no Southern-born man who had remained true to his country should bear reproach from the mouth of a Northern traitor. A second abuse could effect a stain upon it."

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FLOUR MAKING.

New Method of Preparing Wheat for Grinding.

A m

The Pittsburgh Commercial: Saturday, May 28, 1870.

Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, MAY 28, 1870.

THE FENIAN MOVEMENT.

After the repeated failures that have had not a single redeeming feature, one would suppose that the Fenians would not undertake another movement against Canada without they had some assurance of success that did not before exist. It is fair to presume, therefore, that the present movement has some support which the leaders at least believe will help them to accomplish their object, if that object really is the invasion of Canada. No doubt the Winnepeg imbroglio enters into their calculations; but that alone, for all that appears on the surface concerning it, does not afford encouragement sufficient to redeem the movement, if invasion is designed, from the imputation of almost insanity. The question is, is there under the surface a state of things existing in Canada which affords real grounds of encouragement to the Fenians? A correspondent of the COMMERCIAL, from whose letter, dated at Toronto, a quotation is given elsewhere, may have hit upon that which will afford a clue to the grounds of the Fenian expectation. The writer, who is an intelligent observer, after referring to the Winnepeg rebellion, the sympathy of a large portion of the Canadian population with RIEL, and the dissatisfaction generally which exists in the Provinces, says: "Before the matter is settled it will resolve itself into a war between Protestantism and Catholicism." RIEL is a Catholic, and has the support of the French portion of the Canadians, who generally are Catholics. The Fenians are mostly if not wholly Catholics. The question then is, do we find here an explanation of the grounds of the Fenians' expectation?

As any one might have predicted would be the case, the President's proclamation follows the Fenians to the borders. The line of perfect neutrality drawn in regard to the British Red River expedition, in excluding the vessels connected therewith from the Sault Canal, the Government must maintain concerning the Fenians and all other unlawful movements. We must think, that independently of our treaty obligations, it would be a mercy to these adventurers to keep them out of Canada. Weak as the military establishment of Canada may be, it is probably strong enough to defend the country from any invasion the Fenians can organize. Any considerable uprising on the part of the Canadian people might change this somewhat, but we fail to find the evidence that an uprising is contemplated or likely to take place, even though dissatisfaction exists beyond a question among the French portion of the population. If the movement to the border is designed simply to help RIEL by calling back the military force which has been or is about to depart for the purpose of dislodging him and subduing his adherents, it may be said to possess a certain amount of cleverness in the management. And this appears to be the only light in which the present movement is not positively insane.

SHIP CANALS.

Shortsighted people, a few years ago, supposed that with the incoming of the age of railroads the age of canals had gone by. Never was a greater mistake made. Time is showing triumphantly that the enthusiasm for canals was a worthy enthusiasm, founded in just estimate of the conditions of progress and of big ditches as a means of the world's advancement. In the first place, a step towards railroads, then obscured by them as slow, it is found that canals are just as essential as railroads to the state of swift and convenient intercommunication among the nations of mankind. The new Ship Canals at present seem destined to work as vast a revolution in the routes of commerce as was produced by doubling the Cape—or even by the introduction of railroads. The Suez Canal is now an accomplished fact, and in the course of a few years we may hardly doubt that the Atlantic and the Pacific oceans will be united by an opening passable for ships, either across the isthmus of Darien or the isthmus of Tehuantepec. From eastern papers we learn that a company was chartered at the late session of the Dominion Parliament to construct a ship canal of large dimensions between the Indian village of Caughnawaga, opposite the city of Montreal, on the river, on the south shore of the St. Lawrence, and the mouth of Lake Champlain at St. Johns. It will enable propellers of 450 tons, and eventually steamships of 800 tons, to run, without breaking bulk, in seven days from Dunleith, on Lake Superior, and from Chicago, to the head of Lake Champlain, at a cost of $4 50 per ton. The route of this canal, we learn, was surveyed sixteen years ago, and its probable cost carefully estimated by a competent engineer. In view of the practicability of the work and of its commercial advantages, it is certain to be completed within a reasonable time. Whoever examines an ordinary map of the regions immediately concerned in the scheme, will be able to form some notion of its immense results. Though indeed, it is hardly correct to say of any particular region that it is immediately concerned. The whole body now needs to be told whatever benefits all other parts. In commerce all the world is, or tends to become one.

Late French papers make mention of a projected ship canal which, if it shall ever become a reality, will cast into the shade all former achievements of the kind. The mere thought of the gigantic enterprise makes the work in Egypt appear Lilliputian in dimensions, and one cannot help feeling some little compassion for M. LESSEPS in the anticipation of his withered laurels. To be sure, he may find comfort in the thought that a project is not a performance, as well as in the consideration that nothing less than his Egyptian achievement could have made the proposed canal, to which we allude, seem more worthy of attention than a dream. This dream or project is nothing less than the union of the Bay of Biscay or the Atlantic Ocean with the Mediterranean Sea. To the non professional and superficial inspector of a map the plan presents no insuperable obstacles, and the originator of it is, in fact, an able engineer, M. HIPPOLYTE PEUT. We are informed that business men of the most practical and unimaginative character look upon the project with entire respect, and that the people of the south of France, and especially of Bordeaux, are ripe and eager for the opening of the canal. One can easily understand why the government may be inclined to construct or largely aid in constructing the work, if on careful survey of the ground, it should be found within the limits of possibility. To shorten still more the East Indian voyage, already so much shortened by the Suez Canal, must appear to Frenchmen a strong inducement in glory as well as in gain.

Then, to enable the fleets at Cherbourg and Toulon to co-operate in a few days, to supersede Gibraltar, or make that fortress of comparatively small concern to France and of comparatively small value to England, these should seem to be results sufficiently important and gratifying to sustain almost any degree of patient persistence and to justify almost any expenditure of money in overcoming difficulties.

By the announcement in yesterday's cable dispatches of a new Parliamentary grant in aid of the expedition in search of LIVINGSTONE, the African traveller, we are reminded of the latest reports concerning him. Dr. KIRK, of Zanzibar, who in October last, sent a party with stores to LIVINGSTONE's relief, a short time ago, in the *Times*, reported their failure to find him. Cholera, as was feared when they started, had destroyed a majority of them, and the remnant of the party had found a high place of refuge in the interior, where they would wait for the cessation of the pestilence in the low lands before resuming their march. Dr. KIRK also stated that when the disease should have ceased to rage, great gains would be realized by expeditions in search of ivory abandoned on the routes by perished caravans.

Dr. LIVINGSTONE is not the only African traveler about whom anxiety is felt just now. The other is Dr. NACHTIGALL, a German, who was sent in charge of valuable presents from the King of Prussia to the Sultan or King of Bornou. His troubles afford a singular illustration of the sensitiveness of African monarchs to European criticism. It seems that Dr. NACHTIGALL, in a letter, some months ago, to Dr. PETERMANN, of Gotha, took the liberty of making merry on the subject of certain reforms in imitation of European civilization introduced by ALI RIZA, the reigning Pacha of Tripoli. Dr. PETERMANN published the letter, and the Dutch Consul at the Pacha's court made the person criticised acquainted with its contents. Dr. NACHTIGALL now writes from Mursuff, whither he had arrived on his way to Bornou, that he is detained and all his plans thwarted by the offended Pacha. It is said that BISMARCK has taken measures for the Doctor's relief and for the punishment of ALI RIZA.

The interest felt by the European powers in Africa at present is quite remarkable. England has long maintained its hold on the Western coast as much with reference to the future as to the actual value of the possession, and all know how active and liberal has been the participation of the government in the explorations of the last few years. It is confidently expected that one result of these expeditions will be extensive English settlements near the Eastern coast. An Austrian African expedition has probably sailed before now, and Prussian interest in the dark country now first beginning to be known, has lately been manifested in several ways. Americans generally feel that, within the limits of the great continent on which they dwell, so much remains to be done, that there is no call for them to go abroad for work on which to expend their energies. But with an offshoot on the great Republic long established on African soil under most favorable circumstances and with so large an African population among us, to which when properly enlightened Liberia presents in all the advantages they need the strongest inducements to emigrate, it is strange that the American people do not take a more lively and practical interest in the subject. Among the leading powers of Europe rivalry is already stirring vigorously or the largest part and influence in the vast and fertile regions soon to be all laid open to the intercourse and commerce of civilization. With better chances of practical ascendency than any of them, we seem to be neglecting our opportunities.

In the days of slavery, the advocates of the peculiar institution used to claim much for its beneficent effects upon the negroes, while some of those who only apologized for it as a necessity for which the existing generation were not responsible, readily admitted that, by its operation, several millions of savages had been civilized. A distinguished American historian even contended that history furnished no other example of so rapid and satisfactory an advancement from barbarism to civilization as had been achieved among the slaves of the United States. The view, whether correct or not, formed no apology for the institution, as we need hardly say. In fact, various grades of civilization seem to have existed among the slaves. One cause of the difference existed in the varying degrees in which the African tribes from which they had come, were civilized. The negroes of the South are the descendants of a number of different tribes or petty nations, some of which are considerably in advance of others in culture, if we may apply the term. Then, all over the South, the domestic servants, by their intimate intercourse with the ruling race, were educated far above the field hands. Under the rule of slavery they were all made to learn the force of law, and taught to recognize its injunctions—and in the course of time the habit of obedience had been thoroughly formed. In the great majority of the negroes, this habit of subjection to unseen authority and of consequent restrained action, was the principal element in their civilization. Very generally fear without other motives was the chief restraint they knew. The Christian religion, in the form both of doctrine and example, had considerable power over many of them. But upon the whole, their civilization seems to have been mainly external, and quite destitute of any foundation in rational and moral conviction. The eager desire to learn manifested so generally by the freedmen, when first they had the opportunity, was much misunderstood, and gave rise to an impression altogether too favorable to their intelligence.

This earnest longing to master the alphabet or to read, is too often found satisfied with that attainment, or little more. It is the mere curiosity of the barbarian to get behind the mystery of the communication of commands or information by means of silent marks. To urge the student to make farther progress and comprehend the reed of knowledge to qualify him for the duties of citizenship, is described as a task difficult and exhausting to the patience. As to religion among the freedmen, it is stated on apparently good authority that very many are returning to or reviving the *fetish* worship in which their ancestors sought guidance and comfort. It is, however, well not to attach too much importance to such facts. The struggle to ingress in adults to learn the alphabet was so unnatural that a special cause might have been suspected at first, and as to the revival of fetish worship, we suspect if has never been extinct in the South.

THE fact that the question of Woman Suffrage has with extraordinary unanimity been decided in the negative by the people of Vermont, to whom it was squarely submitted, is, perhaps, as crushing a blow as any cause that was supposed to be advancing ever received. Great expectations were entertained by the friends of the cause from this vote. Vermont was supposed to be ripe for the "reform." The question had been fully discussed and long pondered. The people voted deliberately, and the result is as conclusive as it could well be. MR. WM. LLOYD GARRISON, however, refuses to accept the verdict, proposes to take no step backward, but declares his intention to go forward in the movement till Woman Suffrage triumphs, for he does not permit himself to doubt it will triumph. When the women themselves are for equality with the men as to suffrage perhaps it may. At present the weight of testimony appears to be that only a minority—and perhaps a small one—are for this equality, and if anything is manifest from the discussion of the subject we think this fact has been made to appear. It must before now have occurred to MR. TILTON, MRS. STANTON, and other women engineering the leadership, that they do not faithfully represent the women of America in demanding suffrage, though they may relating to property and "rights" (rather wrongs) which have come down to the women of the present day from a remote period, when woman's position was not what it now is. Vermont, we believe, stands ready to right these wrongs if it has not already done so. And so will other States, —but concerning suffrage there cannot be said to be much hope for woman in the present "signs of the times."

THE report of the Committee on Manufactures in reply to the essay of MR. WELLS on our national industries, effected by free trade and direct taxation, is one of the clearest and ablest documents that has anywhere at any time appeared on the subject. The exposure of MR. WELL'S statements and theories is complete, and the argument should possess great weight with Congress. We only regret that on account of its length we cannot lay the document before our readers. The credit of the authorship, we think we do not err in saying, belongs to the Hon. D. J MORRELL, who has no superior as a clear-headed, practical statesman in the Pennsylvania delegation. He brought to the order of men whom the people should keep in power as long as they are willing to remain there. And we embrace this opportunity to express the regret which we know to be very general, that some of the Republicans of Cambria county should oppose his re-election. The gentleman is an honor to the district and State; and his constituents—especially Republicans—should permit no minor considerations to deprive him of a single vote.

IT was among the first of General GRANT'S Presidential utterances that if from time to time he saw fit to make changes in his Cabinet he would not hesitate to act. Cabinet making then was a new business with him, and in some respects he did not do well in it. The experience of fifteen months has probably given him an insight into the business. It is not difficult to perceive that in some particulars his Cabinet is not what he would wish to have it for complete success and his own ease, not to say the general welfare. We are not, therefore, at all surprised at rumors of early changes. It is not improbable that General GRANT is aware of complaints and the reasons for them about certain members of his Cabinet, and we may safely conclude that he will be as ready to respect the complaints and remedy mistakes as any man that ever occupied the White House. Could the country be as well satisfied of the existence of such a disposition on the part of Congress it would be better pleased. While the Cabinet needs an infusion of strength and experience, Congress needs weeding out and the substitution of practical statesmen for leaders of weak intellects, easy consciences and feebleness in general, so that the public business might have some chance of receiving the attention it deserves. The disappearance of old issues will of itself displace not a few; and especially will this be the case in the South, whose representatives, as a class are anything but a benefit to the nation or creditable to the particular regions from which they hail from. We look for changes not in the Cabinet only but in Congress, where most they are needed.

MANY tens of thousands have laughed over the droll fancies and pungent wit of MARK LEMON who never heard his name. Still he was known by name to so many who never on the earth the English language is read, that a few years ago the announcement of his death might have been said to have "eclipsed the gaiety of nations," without a part of the exaggeration which was charged upon the expression when first used by DR. JOHNSON in mentioning the decease of GARRICK. MARK LEMON will long be remembered as a writer, editor and one of the chief writers of the London *Punch*, from the commencement and through the best days of that wonderful paper. To make people laugh is not, in itself, a very elevated or admirable employment. But in its prime, *Punch* was much more than a mover of laughter; it influenced public sentiment in favor of humanity, justice, and many needed reforms. The late DR. ADDISON ALEXANDER said of the paper what many others used to feel when reading it: "The charm to me in *Punch*," said DR. ALEXANDER, "is, that I always feel that its writers are all men who are *equal to greater things*." This we know to have been more emphatically true of some of his coadjutors than of the editor. But MARK LEMON deserves the credit of having organized and, in a sense, guided the labors of the band of wits and humorists who made a comic paper in the nineteenth century a powerful organ of public opinion. He died on the 23d instant, and was about sixty-seven years old.

THE *Nation* lays great stress on the not proven assertion that a considerable number of the members of the South Carolina Legislature cannot read or write. In an attitude of amazement, peculiar to itself, it says:

> "It must be remembered that we are now talking of the legislators of a civil not a race, possessing the power to vote away their neighbor's property almost without stint, and pledged, by the terms of the State constitution—and not of bod-carriers."

We commend to the *Nation's* attention the legislators of New York, Pennsylvania and even Massachusetts, all of which States we believe claim to be "civilized," and we ask it to tell us if they are models of purity or wisdom. It is not believed that a legislator of either of these States can be found not able to read or write; and yet what do we find them doing? What is the reputation of the Legislatures of these States? In what terms has the *Nation* itself spoken of them? We are not defending ignorance, but would like to have the excessively wise man of the *Nation* just see how bad is his logic in the light of practical experience, and how unfortunate is his citation in his attempt to make a point against colored legislators in South Carolina, who have had less schooling than the more favored ones of some of the other States.

IT is predicted now that even the Funding bill will fail, and that Congress will adjourn with nothing done with the finances. The time for making nominations in some of the States is at hand, and we observe that it is becoming the habit to speak of individual members of Congress in praise of their abilities, the faithfulness of their labors, and the necessity of their re-nomination. In view of what Congress has not done, is not likely to do that they should do, as well as what they have done that they should not have done, all this sounds not a little curious. One would suppose that with so many able, faithful and indispensible men congregated together as lawmakers, after six months of labor, nothing would remain to be desired; whereas the truth is, the land is filled with complaints, which are likely to become louder from still further omissions. Either the praises or complaints are unjust. When the day of reckoning comes it will be well if the people decide dispassionately which.

SENATOR CAMERON and his friends did not oppose or vote against the confirmation of the Collector mentioned on Mr. Curtin. An opposition which, for lack of numbers, could not succeed, would have embarrassed and delayed his appointment to St. Petersburg, and, as the Senate was in session, the delay was, not improperly, construed into tacit approval.—*Harrisburg Telegraph.*

This certainly is wonderful magnanimity! But the truth is that Senator CAMERON'S wishes for or against Gov. CURTIN'S appointment neither had nor possibly could have had the slightest influence. The appointment was a free and unsolicited offer by Gen. GRANT, and the pretense by CAMERON now that he could have controlled the appointment, is an insult to the President. The fact is CAMERON did his best to prevent the confirmation of CURTIN in the Senate, and was sharply rebuked for it by Senator SCOTT, who led the Senate and left CAMERON standing alone in his opposition to the "War Governor."

THE MCFARLAND-RICHARDSON case is likely to prove an over-dose of insanity on the public stomach. The comments of the press and the public in general plainly denote this. Perhaps, as things were going, an over-dose administered in the form of the late trial was the best thing that could happen. In the manifest revulsion that has been produced in the public mind, perhaps the greatest danger to be apprehended is that the opposite extreme will be reached, which would be a natural consequence of the degeneracy which it must be confessed in many places marks the administration of Gen. Scott? And what about certain horses and carriages which the aforesaid contractors paid for? Will Gen. Cameron ever learn that his best interest lies in perfect quiet and silence?

THE case of Paul Shoeppe vs. the Commonwealth will probably be brought in Supreme Court to-day, but may not be argued as the counsel for Shoeppe have signified their aversion to bringing up the case at this term have before a full bench, believing that Chief Justice Thompson and Justice Sharswood, when the case was up on the 13th instant, expressed themselves in sufficiently plain terms against the pardoning power which has so shamefully covered Shoeppe's case, to warrant the risking of the cause in the absence of Justice Williams.

AN old fellow denominated Professor Barnes, but more familiarly known as "Old Barnes," has been lecturing in Boston on labor reform, and by some inexplicable process in the women "who peopled this world"—she "breathed" into existence "a Peter, a John, a Paul, a Washington, a Franklin and" (last, though not least,) "a Professor Barnes!" The Professor thought that "if man would take her to be his companion it would equalize things and bring them to a level with each other."

MRS. MARY POWELL, in a lecture on the Indians, makes a curious statement concerning children, which are fastened to birch bark and their limbs kept confined till boys are two years old, "I have seen," she says, "as many as two hundred of them together at one time, and no noise came from their lips. They are healthy and comfortable, and this is the way to bring up Indian children." The practice is not confined, only their bodies and legs."

IN looking over the *Reformed Church Messenger*—one of the most ably conducted papers in this country, and the organ of the Reformed Church—we notice that, at the recent Easter communion, over seventeen hundred additions to the church were reported, from only about forty charges. Nearly all of these were received by the solemn rite of confirmation.

GEN. JORDAN, it is said, has written to the Cuban Junta in New York, that he has met with but little encouragement thus far in Washington, but does not despair of accommodations. He expects a session of two years of Congress. He attributes his want of success to false reports having reached the members of Spanish victories.

THE Boston *Traveller* is of opinion that the revelation concerning affairs on the Rio Grande "will confirm many in the opinion already entertained that Mexico ought to be annexed to this country. But, in this connection, the question arises, whether the very evils complained of would not be greater in that event than they are now."

AN old Indian woman in California, during a recent trance, predicted that the city of San Francisco will be totally destroyed by an earthquake in 1873, and its site be submerged in water. Real estate owners there are alarmed.

WOODEN pavements are not favorable for bonfires. Certain enthusiastic Democrats, in New York, bent on celebrating their victory by the usual burnt offering of tar barrels, managed to set fire to the wooden pavement in East Fourteenth street, which was consumed for nearly a whole block. The only similar incident we recall was in the great fire of San Francisco in 1860, when, the streets being gutted, the inhabitants speedily found not only the houses burning over their heads, but the very ground beneath their feet. These facts, however, afford no valid objection to wooden pavements. When well laid down, are now conceded to be the best yet invented.

GEN. CAMERON cares even less than his friends do for this. But it cannot be overlooked—and it should not be overlooked—that Gov. CURTIN has made much more to injure the Republican party than to disgrace him. Any Democrat who votes for CURTIN, in consequence of his which throws him open to censure for disloyalty, is guilty of no disloyalty, no performance of any political duty.—*Harrisburg Telegraph.*

What about Bull Run lost, and U. S. troops kept on the Plains in the interest of contractors and others? What about the "order

The Pittsburgh Commercial: Saturday, May 28, 1870.

About one hundred more Fenians advanced in column, and with an advance guard of two hundred strong our men received the attack. Fenian loss, three killed and several wounded; Canadian loss so far, none. The Fenians were not fired upon as they crossed the line.

LATER—The Fenians have fallen back. Reinforcements have been hurried left Portland for Island Pond this morning. The United States authorities are preventing any further use of arms at Portland. There has been a Fenian demonstration towards Huntington from Malone to-day, but nothing has been done. Canadian volunteers are ready to receive them. Other Fenian squads, with arms and ammunition, are marching rapidly in the direction of Trout river.

FRANKENBURGH, May 26, 6 P. M.—Col. Smith reports the Fenians still in front, but demonstrating. It is reported the force at Huntington was a Captain wounded and twelve killed and missing.

PRESCOTT, May 25.—A company of the Fifth United States Artillery at Fort Adams, Newport, is ordered to be ready to move.

BUFFALO, May 25.—Two hundred Fenians left this afternoon and evening for the east. There is quite an excitement. Troops are looked for to-night. No more troops will leave Buffalo for the present. Another fight between Canadian volunteers are quartered at the village of Fort Erie, opposite this city. Yesterday orders were issued to the militia regiments not to ship resource by the Canadian routes. Insurance companies refuse to take risks on the Welland canal. More Fenians are expected to-night by the Erie Railway, Lake Shore road and Canada Southern.

NEW YORK, May 25.—The actual opening of business in the Fenian movement to-day has not made the differences among the Fenians more. Prominent leaders of the Savage wing are organizing a regiment for the front. At least 6,000 volunteers were enrolled on Monday and Tuesday. Eight hundred men were enrolled within five hours. It is stated positively to-day that 1,500 left for different points on the line of the Hudson River Railroad, under the charge of Vice President Egan, of the O'Neil branch of the Brotherhood. Fort Niagara is the destination of the majority. Large squads are being enlisted for the Irish Legion. Many Fenians are moving in New Jersey. A party of fifty men left Paterson and Newark Monday, and Patterson presumably to-night. Another party of fifteen also went from Elizabeth this evening.

THE SPANISH GARROTE

Execution of the Brothers Agnero—Wonderful Feat of Endurance—Details of the Execution.

HAVANA, May 17.—On Saturday last Spanish Havana was gratified with the execution by the garrote of two young men of good birth, superior education, and gentle manners, for the crime of resisting Spanish domination in this island and fighting for what the Americans deem the inalienable right of self-government. They died with perfect calmness and serenity, winning reluctant admiration from their enemies and many an expression of sympathy from others.

Gaspar and Diego Agnero, respectively twenty-six and twenty-two years of age, were born in the city of Puerto Principe, sons of Don Cenobio Agnero and Doncella Graciano Agnero, both belonging to the old blood aristocracy of Camagney. The oldest was educated in Paris, the other in New York, in which latter place both had resided for a considerable time, and were both highly accomplished adepts in all gymnasial exercises, speaking many languages and organized with more than ordinary physical perfection.

The brothers were tried by court martial, and sentenced to die by the garrote. Unlike Spaniards, who seldom have a tear for their enemies, were affected by their unwavering yet noble bearing. Gaspar, the elder, a Spanish officer who defended them at one stage of the proceedings, was moved to almost uncontrollable fit of weeping. After the sentence was read to them they turned and grasped each other's hands in a fraternal embrace, and spoke a few words in English, not understood by those around, but regarded as words of affection and encouragement. They were at once placed in the capilla, when two Jesuit priests and two confessors, which they received with gentle courtesy, but declined to receive the consolations of the Church, professing themselves unbelievers. The priests were fascinated by their manner and bearing, and afterwards spoke in the highest encomiums upon them. They were subsequently taken to the Prision Vieja, where the execution Saturday evening being fixed for the execution. An immense crowd gathered, and it is estimated that full seven thousand people were present. The scaffold had been built very high in order that the spectacle might be seen by the extended—might be witnessed by all.

Before being taken to execution the irons were removed from them that they might bid each other farewell. As the chains dropped from them they embraced each other and tenderly remarking in French, *"Mourons tranquilos et apres nous serons heureux,"* let die tranquilly and without speaking. The youngest stepped from the fortress first, and was marched on foot to the fatal spot, a distance of about a mile. He walked quietly, smoking the Cuban's inevitable cigarette, which he threw from him at the foot of the scaffold. From the place of distance, he said to the priest, "The way is very long, I shall be tired before I reach there."

On arriving he, of his own motion, seated himself in the chair, and observing that it was too high, rose again that it might be adjusted. He placed his head in the collar, when the priests, as charged by the sentence, attempted again requesting him to confess. His only response was *"Jesus prondo,"* (finish quickly!) The huge negro turned the fatal crank, a slight modic thrusting forward of the lower part of the body followed, and a fine cut there dead. The corpse was taken from the chair and laid upon the platform, covered by a piece of canvas.

When the elder brother, who meanwhile had been sustaining fresh courage, mounted the scaffold, he gazed at his dead brother lying there, and, looking around upon the people, seemed about to speak, but was prevented from so doing. An amused smile stole over his features. He seated himself in the chair, declined the offer of the priests to confess, and when all gone to join the other, while loud shouts of *"Viva Espana!"* from the crowd greeted the assistance and the populace.

In personal appearance the brothers Agnero were unusually prepossessing. Of the two the younger was the taller. They had dark eyes and hair, like their sister, and in their veins manifested a stoicism worthy of the Indian blood which doubtless flowed in their veins.

The fact that the Agneros were brought to suffer an ignominious death by the garrote instead of being shot like soldiers excited consternation and no small share of indignation. Even the spanish officers say, "We all think it was wrong to garrotte them."

STATE NEWS.

A Young Men's Christian Association is to be organized in Sunbury at an early day.

James Burns, a laborer employed at Stark's colliery, at Pittston, has mysteriously disappeared. He was seen on the 16th of last month, supposed to be going home.

Michael Kearn, a single man and laborer in the National Mine at Minooka, Luzerne county, was crushed to death by a falling rock Friday afternoon.

The difficulties in Dickinson College have been settled, the rebellious students returning to their lessons.

Some of the miners in the Shamokin region have agreed to go to work at $9 per week for outside labor, $10 for inside and $12 for miners. In consequence of this agreement a large number of the men, some of the operators there resumed work on the 23d.

It is proposed to call the new Diocese to be formed out of Eastern Pennsylvania, (except Philadelphia, Bucks, Chester, Delaware and Montgomery,) the Diocese of Scranton.

Samuel Cowden, of Reading, attempted to commit suicide on Sunday by hanging himself with a clothes line. He was discovered and cut down in time to save his life. Cause, whisky.

Scarlet fever is very prevalent among children in the eastern part of the State. In Columbia, Lancaster county, it has desolated many households recently. Eight deaths have occurred there of scarlet fever since the 1st inst., and many children are now lying in a critical condition. The disease is mostly confined, and great precautions are being taken to prevent the disease from spreading. There are also numerous cases in Harrisburg.

They have a special police in Brookville, under a recent act of Legislature.

William Clark, Esq., ex-member of the Legislature from Dauphin county, died on Thursday last.

A Dunkard Love Feast will be held near Sprinville, in Mercer county, on Saturday.

Augustus B. Miller, Superintendent of the machine shop belonging to the Lancaster Sash and Door Company, had his left had so badly mangled by a moulding machine on Monday morning, that it was found necessary to amputate the injured hand at the wrist.

On Saturday last a son of Jacob Bauer, of Plainfield township, Northampton county, aged twelve years, fell under a field roller, which he was driving, and was crushed to death.

Patrick Lee, Jr., and John Brown have been arrested for firing the coal breaker of E. S. Silliman & Co., at Mahanoy City last month. The two men had been discharged by Mr. Silliman and they have been boasting recently that they had paid off their former employer by burning his breaker.

Mrs. Martha Campbell, of Punxsutawney, Jefferson county, aged sixty-three, while whitewashing, last week, fell from the chair on which she was standing, and fractured her thigh.

The annual session of the Grand Lodge of Good Templars will be held at Gettysburg, commencing on Tuesday, June 14th.

It is the intention of the Susquehanna Canal Company to considerably enlarge the canal, so that boats of larger tonnage can be used. Work will be commenced next winter, and the endeavor will be to complete it for the following season. This will be a very important improvement, increasing as it will the shipping facilities of individual coal operators.

During a thunder storm at Scranton on Saturday, several houses were struck by lightning. Mr. George Van Loon was instantly killed, and James Richards was so badly burned that he is not expected to survive. Considerable property was damaged by the storm.

On Saturday afternoon there was a severe explosion of fire damp at the Mount Pleasant mines, near Scranton. A man named Gibson was so severely burned that it is doubtful if he recovers. Six other men were considerably burned, but none dangerously. These explosions have been quite frequent in different mines lately, and it is evident that additional precautions are necessary for the protection of the men who work in them.

Four prisoners escaped from the Luzerne county jail Saturday night.

James Mally, seven years old, was run over and dangerously injured by a runaway team, in Harrisburg on Monday.

The next session of the Grand Lodge of Odd Fellows will be held in Harrisburg, on the third Tuesday of May next.

The total amount of the Philadelphia contribution to the Richmond sufferers is now fourteen thousand one hundred and thirty-six dollars.

For the four weeks of April, the price of wheat in England had advanced over two shillings per quarter, and there appeared to be a prospect of a further advance. The stock in warehouse had been reduced upon, owing to the diminished imports and the hesitation of the farmers in England to sell. An unfavorable winter and spring had produced a short crop in France, also, breadstuffs had advanced. Our farmers may, before the season is over, be able to sell their grain at or near to remunerative prices.

JUVENILE Peabodys are in bloom at Albany, New York, and will some day make a noise in the world. The *Argus* tells of a little boy, the new-born pet of the household, who was lately hammering at the window pane of his nurse's room, flattering in the breeze, running up from the river, flourishing a dirty shingle, and screaming at the top of his voice to a comrade: "Oi, Bill! get as many boys and shingles as you can, for there's a big bonfire of James busted on the pavement—busted all to smash!"

A man, supposed to be George Livingston, was murdered Wednesday night and thrown into the river, at Oswego. It is said he is the victim of a relative of a young lady whom he seduced in New York.

THINGS AT WASHINGTON.

Discussion in the Senate—Ferry and Morton as Leaders or Representative Men—How Shall We Treat the South—The Tariff Struggle—Who Carried the Day.

[Correspondence of the Boston Advertiser.]

WASHINGTON, May 20, 1870.

The Senatorial debate on the bill giving effect to the Fifteenth Amendment, makes plain what was suggested by the debate in that body on the Georgia question—that there are two parties in the Republican ranks, and two statesmen as Mr. Morton, Mr. Drake, Mr. Sumner, Mr. Howard, and Mr. Thayer are for harsh and proscriptive measures towards the South; while such men as Mr. Trumbull, Mr. Carpenter, Mr. Ferry, Mr. Conkling, Mr. Sawyer, Mr. Wagner, and Mr. Revels believe that assured peace lies in amnesty and cordial sympathy. In this last present controversy the two theories joined issue through the debate between Mr. Morton and Mr. Ferry, both of whom spoke with a good deal of warmth and feeling. Mr. Ferry's was much the best speech of the two—close, logical, and generally free from demagogism.

Mr. Morton's speech was a repetition of the Georgia debate show that he has not advanced from his position of five years ago. He read at great length extracts from the Georgia laws, and tried to make out, he either ignorance or malice, and tried to make out that the chief part of the Republican stock in trade for the support of the Southern Unionists and rebel hostility and Ku Klux outrages and insecurity to Unionists. He made a strong example and warning is needed, it seems to me that the condition of Tennessee ought to be a sufficient warning against the use of figure and metaphor, he may certainly be credited with the possession of money and imagination, and for my own part I must say that I deemed Mr. Lincoln one of the most emphatical of men. He was a man of deep heart, with pity and sympathy at any tale of suffering or sorrow or flaw of right, but he was also of great meanness or at wrong" to bow with unaffected and overwhelming grief over the disasters of his country or life for a time, but he was also not easily too often under the control of his emotions, and I am sure that he was not one to be swept away by mere sentiment. Mr. Morton may issue his bull of excommunication against the Democratic party, but their fealty to the Republican party is just as sound as his own, and, in my judgment, their fidelity to the Constitution and the law is healthful assault.

The raw-head and bloody-bones argument has had its day, as I believe Mr. Morton will find when he leaves the artificial atmosphere of Washington and comes more into practical contact with the people at home. The country is tired of this long-continued wrangling. Politically and socially the Southern people are willing to equitable terms, and the best policy for the Republican party is just as sound as his own, and, in my judgment, their fidelity to the Constitution and the law is healthful assault.

The boundaries above set forth, as we are informed, comprise what is now known as the Wilkinsburg sub-district, or nearly so—the allowances being taken off to the proposed new district includes Wilkinsburg and Edgewood, both flourishing suburban villages, which are rapidly increasing in wealth and population. The present school facilities are entirely inadequate to the wants of the community, and the pupils are now greatly inconvenienced in consequence, being compelled to send their children to select schools at a distance, while the public schools as are fit and accessible in other districts. What will probably, with the exception of the borough of Braddock, extends from the city line on the west, to Turtle Creek on the east and is one of the largest and wealthiest townships in the county. The people have proceed to be cut off has ample population for a separate district, and the demands for better educational facilities have become most urgent. The township being large, those taxpayers residing at a distance from the city, naturally, oppose the erection of a building sufficiently large for the classes because their children would be taken from home. Hence the necessity has been forced upon the people in the matter mentioned, to apply to the court for a separate district, which will enable them to build a suitable house, and support it from the taxes levied. The act in question is signed by over seventy tax-payers, and although one of the petitioners has since perished, got an opportunity to sign the paper. The people are unanimously in favor of the new district, and the only parties who are opposed to it, apparently, oppose the erection of a building sufficiently large for the classes because their children would be taken from home. Hence the necessity has been forced upon the people in the matter mentioned, to apply to the court for a separate district, which will enable them to build a suitable house, and support it from the taxes levied. The act in question is signed by over seventy tax-payers, and although one of the petitioners has since perished, got an opportunity to sign the paper. The people are unanimously in favor of the new district, and the only parties who are opposed to it, apparently, oppose the erection of a building sufficiently large for the classes because their children would be taken from home.

The proposed new district, which will probably be sold and a new building adapted to the vastly increased business of the united boards be erected upon the site now occupied by the Presbyterian House opposite the Mint.

It will be curious to note the demeanor of those "children of the forest" of antagonistic feelings when they meet the "Great Father" at Washington. Red Cloud and his savage foes, Spotted Tail and Swift Bear, will doubtless have a demonstrative pow-wow which may require the "Great Father" to enact the part of the "Great Pacificator." "When Greek meets Greek," &c.

The examination of Wm. Comery, charged with placing obstructions on the Hartford and Erie Railroad, resulted in nobling him in five hundred dollars bail for trial.

CITY MATTERS.

WILKINSBURG AND EDGEWOOD.

Application for an Independent School District—Appointment of Commissioners.

On Saturday, in the Court of Quarter Sessions, Messrs. Hampton and Dalzell, attorneys for petitioners, presented a petition signed by numerous citizens of Wilkins township, praying for the formation of the territory appurtenant to Mr. Morton, Mr. Drake, Mr. Sumner, Mr. Howard, and Mr. Thayer are for harsh and proscriptive measures towards the South; while such men as Mr. Trumbull, Mr. Carpenter, Mr. Ferry, Mr. Conkling, Mr. Sawyer, Mr. Wagner, and Mr. Revels believe that assured peace lies in amnesty and cordial sympathy. In this present controversy the two theories joined issue through the debate between Mr. Morton and Mr. Ferry, both of whom spoke with a good deal of warmth and feeling. Mr. Ferry's was much the best speech of the two—close, logical, and generally free from demagogism.

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A MYSTERIOUS DISAPPEARANCE.

A Reputable Citizen of New Castle Gets Married on Wednesday and Disappears. Mysterious Circumstances Surrounding the Disappearance of the Missing Man—Reward Offered.

NEW CASTLE, May 25, 1870.

On Friday afternoon last, Mr. Marcus L. Reynolds, a very worthy citizen of New Castle, Lawrence county, and son of Mr. John F. Reynolds, an old and well known citizen of that place, disappeared from his friends in the most mysterious manner, and under the most painful circumstances, as Mr. Reynolds was married to Miss Emma Thomas, on the preceding evening previous, and had every preparation made for a wedding trip to Blairsville, in Indiana county, where his wife had numerous relations residing. The day was also fixed with Mr. Reynolds and having had a chill on Sunday, his physician advised a postponement of the proposed tour. The wedding was celebrated on Wednesday evening. Leaving the house of his father, he was noticed going in the direction of his father-in-law's residence, and has not been since nor heard from. However, on this day the tracks of the missing man were found by a boy leaving his father's house, he had been seen going in the direction of Enon Valley, a village about five miles from New Castle. Thither a party went their steps, and on inquiry they ascertained from a boy that on the Friday afternoon taken a strange man across the creek in a skiff. The description furnished by the lad accorded precisely with Reynolds's. The lad also stated that, when hailing from the opposite bank, he told him he had no money and could not pay him anything. Pursuing the search, the party at last learned that a man answering to the above description had taken the three o'clock train on Friday, at Moravia, for Pittsburg, the stone has been left unturned to discover the missing man, the locality of his disappearance having been thoroughly scanned, but no trace or information can be obtained. The following is a description of the missing man: 8ix feet high; full black beard, and fair complexion; twenty-one years old. Dress—suit in green barred pants, black coat, and new overcoat and hat. Any person having information as to his whereabouts, and his distressed friends will be deeply thankful to any one who will take him charge of and send them of any fact connected with his mysterious disappearance. The missing man is one of the largest and wealthiest young men in the county, and the people are greatly inconvenienced in consequence, being compelled to send their children to select schools at a distance, while the public schools as are fit and accessible in other districts. What will probably, with the exception of the borough of Braddock, extends from the city line on the west, to Turtle Creek on the east and

Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, MAY 28, 1870.

TERMS:

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OVER THE WAR GULF.

Over the war gulf and on a smooth open sea! The present is a fitting time for retrospection and introspection. What of the past? What of the present? as respects the operation of the machinery of government.

Eighty years ago Governor Morris, speaking of the Constitution of the United States, said: "We have tried to make a union between eight republics and five oligarchies." The remark implies his want of faith in the harmony and efficiency of the new Federal Government. The records of the time show the prevalence, in different localities, of nearly opposite opinions as to the nature and extent of the powers which should be granted to the United States. One class of publicists, with the experience before them of the impotence of Continental Congresses and Confederacies for the purpose of national government, and with views of statesmanship more practical than those of their opponents, advocated the formation of a strong central government. Another class inheriting the traditional colonial distrust of British imperial power, aggravated by their recent tyranical colonial measures of the mother country, held to the inviolability of State Sovereignty. They were willing to constitute a central and common agency of State governments with limited and revocable powers. The former followed closely the British model. The latter would recognize no imperial power beyond the State. The advocates of a strong central government were found chiefly in the "eight republics." Those who most distrusted federal power came chiefly from the "five oligarchies," with, however, notable exceptions in both cases.

The constitution as it came from the convention was, strangely enough, the result of compromises of extreme opinions, and did not embody the exact political doctrines of any party. Having its origin in large and liberal mutual concessions, its authors and many other eminent public men, in a spirit of commendable conciliation very generally recommended it to the States for their adoption.

The new government went into operation, and soon appeared two parties, which, abating much of the extravagance of the political notions of the old but poorly organized schools, represented to a considerable extent their political principles. These differed widely as to the nature and extent of the powers vested in the Federal Government. One was the party of *liberal* construction. The other was the party of *strict* construction. There was no party of *fair, just* and *common sense* construction. The former being in the ascendency, controlled the Government for about twelve years, and was itself moderated and restrained by the wisdom of Washington during eight years of that period. It established a national bank, assumed the revolutionary debts of the States and gave an extravagant extension to the judicial power of the United States. The mission of this party appears to have been to put the machinery of national government in motion and to sustain it in operation until it acquired strength and consistency. It guarded the life of the nation through the perilous period of infancy and youth. This done, its work was finished.

The party of strict construction having succeeded in the elections of 1800, came into the control of the Government under liberal promises of reform of abuses and of change in the existing mode of administration. It contented itself, however, with the repeal of some unwise legislation and the correction of some abuses. The Government must go on, and it could go on well only in the beaten track. The Chief and other wise men in this party said there was no power in the Constitution to acquire additional territory, either by purchase or conquest. But we needed the control of the Mississippi. France was willing to cede to us the Louisiana Territory on fair terms. Considerations of national necessity pressed hard and there was nothing but a theory of construction in the way. JEFFERSON yielded his theory, made the treaty and his party approved. But this act "outside of the Constitution" *was not to be drawn into a precedent.* MADISON denied the power to charter a National bank, but signed the act of 1816, *because the public interests,* in his opinion, *demanded it,* and theory again and always yielded to common sense in matters of practical legislation. But these centripetal and centrifugal forces of liberal and strict construction, operating in different directions and with much force, aided by the growing prosperity of the whole country, had probably a larger agency in putting the government into the orbit of its just powers than the "wisdom of the Fathers of the Constitution" apotheosized in a thousand patriotic orations. Moving silently forward in a track equally removed from the broad road of Federalism and the narrow path of the old Democracy, it gathered its proper strength and vigor by a gradual development of power. There was, indeed, a debatable frontier between the State and the National sovereignty. There were occasional jarrings and threatened collisions. There was, in one case, imminent danger of internal conflict. But the general course was peaceful, and the government was not put on the full exercise of its sovereign powers. Meantime the nation increased in wealth, resources and population beyond any parallel in history, and came to be recognized abroad as a great nation.

Notwithstanding this silent and solid constitutional growth, there were men of eminence in the public counsels who accorded to the Union only a precarious existence, dependent on the will of some or any of the States. Friends of the government, too, doubted whether it possessed the self preserving and asserting powers of sovereignty. Thirty-five years ago DE TOCQUEVILLE wrote, after much study and observation of the workings of our institutions: "If the sovereignty of the Union were at the present day to engage in a struggle with that of the States, its defeat may be confidently predicted, and it is not probable that such a struggle would be very long protracted. As often as a steady resistance is offered to the Federal Government it will be found to yield. Experience has hitherto shown that whenever a State has demanded anything with perseverance and resolution, it has invariably succeeded; and that, if it has distinctly refused to act, it was left to do as it thought fit." Within ten years, threats of dissolution of the Union, made in the Southern States and re-echoed by the Northern Democracy, were the ordinary arguments against candidates, measures and policies unacceptable to that party.

Twenty-five years after DE TOCQUEVILLE wrote, the Union was put upon the full exercise and strain of its powers. The doubts of friends were silenced and dispelled. No monarchy or empire ever showed greater strength or more vigorous life. The rebellious heresy of secession was trodden into the dust, and the blot of slavery washed out with patriotic blood. The foundations of the Government have been enlarged, and it has received, with the consent of the people, an accession of *humblest power.* It now rests upon the basis of equal rights and protection for all. The bottom danger of centralization existed only in the fears of the slave-holding "oligarchies." These have been converted into Republicans, and if the spirit of GOVERNEUR MORRIS could look down upon the regenerated and strengthened Union of to-day, the cloud of distrust would lift from his soul.

In this hasty retrospection, it may not be unprofitable to inquire whether the machine of national government has throughout the protracted struggle maintained its own internal balance. Commencing with the administration of Gen. JACKSON, the Executive Department, for a period of thirty years, appeared to be growing in strength, and likely to attain an undue preponderance in the general government. The introduction of the party doctrine, that "to the victors belongs the spoils," meaning the offices, gave a great accession of strength to the Executive. The arbitrary temper of this great soldier and patriotic citizen, led him into measures in supposed derogation of the rights of the Legislature and Judiciary, but his great popularity enabled him to stand before the country without much scrutiny into the wisdom or legality of several of his official acts. None of his successors down to the period of Mr. LINCOLN'S administration seemed willing to abate any of the pretensions of the Executive Department as administered by Gen. JACKSON, although none of them had the personal force or character of that extraordinary and upright man.

With Mr. LINCOLN came a strain on both the legislative and executive branches. It was the trying period of our history and the full strength of the whole Government was brought into exercise. The President, weighed down by the responsibility of the conduct of the war, willingly surrendered the executive patronage—the great source of executive power in peaceful times—to be dispensed by members of Congress. The attempt of President JOHNSON to resume it and exercise it in opposition to the wishes of the party which elected him, led to the passage of the Tenure-of-Office law, which under considerable modifications, is still retained. The statute reducing the number of Judges of the Supreme Court to seven, only to be repealed two years afterwards, and many other laws passed during the last four years, were blows aimed at executive authority, and intended to restrain its harmful exercise. The wise and necessary reconstruction measures were largely intended to have, and have in fact had the same effect. The unfortunate circumstances of an Executive, in a trying period, not possessing the public confidence, and the consequent and necessary resort to extreme legislative measures to restrain him from an injurious exercise of the powers of his office, have resulted in an aggrandisement of the Legislative at the expense of the Executive branch of the government. Congress at present seem disposed to treat the President as its agent and servant. It has practically usurped the power of appointment to office, and the principal business of some of its members seems to be to obtain their share or more than their share of the "spoils." The Senate especially seems to be tenacious of its newly acquired exective power evinced in the refusal to repeal the Tenure-of-Office law.

Recent events have demonstrated that the country has nothing to fear from the encroachments of executive power. But such is not the nature of legislative power. In Great Britain the House of Commons has, within a century reduced royalty and nobility to a shadow. The present Executive is much stronger with the people than Congress; but he is under such restraints as were imposed on none but his immediate predecessor.

Had we space, it could be demonstrated that the Judiciary has not its just weight in the Government. It too has been put under the restraint of legislative power. But let us hope that time and peace and national prosperity will assist to readjust the balance and carry the Government forward in her great career.

THE NEW YORK ELECTION.

A more disgusting or deplorable exhibition of political corruption than was afforded by the New York City election on Tuesday has probably never been seen in this country. Indeed, to find its historical parallel it would be necessary to go over to Italy and back to Pagan times. Under such charges of such abuses have been made by one party, they have been denied, at least with some plausibility, by another. In New York, the other day, the facts were so patent and palpable that they could not be questioned. The friends and supporters of the candidates who enjoy the advantages of the frauds that were perpetrated, find themselves deficient in the effrontery which alone could question the truth. The Ring did exactly as it pleased, and its arrangements beforehand were so perfect, its organization so complete, and its power so overwhelming, that, early on the day of election if not before, the honest voters interested in the result seem to have made up their minds that resistance would inevitably be in vain, and that it was better to regard the whole affair as a gigantic farce. The venerable precept, "vote early and vote often," was obeyed by multitudes in many of the wards. Well known citizens were even present when others voted in their name, and the demand for the arrest of the miscreants who committed the crime, was unheeded by the police, on the ground that the demand was not made by the proper authority, the proper authority being the agents of the fraud. Organized bands of *repeaters,* as they are called, did not even pretend to conceal their operations, but under the very eyes of the police, shifted the disguises under which, after a short interval, the same persons voted in other names. In one ward, nearly five hundred negroes who had been registered, were deprived of their votes, because on appearing at the ballot-box, it was discovered that repeaters had already voted for them. Some of these negroes were actually arrested for attempting to vote in their own names, which had been already used. Upon the whole, it is perhaps a low estimate that thirty thousand fraudulent votes were cast to elect a Democratic Chief Justice.

The practical lesson of this awful exhibition is not far to seek. The farce of Tuesday was the natural culmination of a mode of political management which has made the great metropolis a proverb for thirty years. In that city politics, as understood by the dominant faction, long ago ceased to be anything better than a mean trade, carried on in the selfish interest of the tradesmen. In other words, the business of party politics there reached the conditions towards which it steadily tends everywhere, under the control of the low men who make the gaining of votes the work of their lives. The earlier ascendancy of the class in New York was, of course, due to the excellent advantages afforded them in the character of a large portion of the population. Something must also be allowed for the superior talents and general qualifications of the leaders. New York naturally attracts the clever scoundrels as it attracts other sorts of clever men. With first-rate material to work upon, constantly stimulated by partial successes and by the certainty of final triumph, and all the time aided by the apathy of citizens too proud or too fastidious to oppose them with the necessary energy, the politicians have at length established an absolute democratic despotism. A despotism more dreadful, more intolerable to good citizens, or are more incompatible with the proper ends of society, it is impossible to imagine. But it is only the natural outcome under favorable circumstances, of causes which are at work in every city and village of the country.

THE TRIAL.

Cases involving the charge of breach of promise of marriage, whether tried in a civil or ecclesiastical court, are usually of a scandalous character. Their details are commonly of a kind better adapted to gratify the misanthrope than the philanthropist, even when they fail to minister entertainment to the baser tastes of human nature. To this general statement a rather striking exception has been afforded by the "CLARK case," fully reported in the columns of the COMMERCIAL during the current week. If about any affair of the sort without suggesting a suspicion of the indecorous, we may justly say about this case, that its trial was creditable to all the parties principally concerned. Every candid person who has witnessed or who has read the proceedings will bear cheerful testimony to the unaffected desire of the Presbytery to ascertain the essential facts necessary to a correct judgment, and their equally manifest purpose, without fear or favor, to administer justice. It is a very unpleasant and painful duty which they had to perform, and no single incident occurred that we are aware of, inconsistent with the impression that the duty was discharged with manliness and fidelity. The lady could not fail to command the general sympathy in her position, as one who asked neither for pecuniary damages nor for enforced fulfillment of the engagement alleged to have been violated, but who wished for nothing more than such a rectification of her good name as would result from the revelation of all the circumstances of the case. The gentleman, a prominent member of a distinguished profession, the pastor of a large city congregation, looked up to by a multitude as their spiritual guide, and by a still greater multitude as an example, inevitably enlisted a deep and widely extended interest in the success or failure of his effort at self-vindication. An obvious feature of the trial, manifested equally by the accuser, the accused and the judges, was their respect for facts. Hence there was, apparently, no attempt to keep back or to conceal anything necessary to a just decision, and any attempt to give a false color to words or acts, received not the slightest countenance or tolerance. No and was sought by either able from eloquent sophistry, or ingenious casuistry to darken counsel, to varnish wrong, or to prevent the plain dictates of sound sense and honest conscience in regard to the merits of the case. Though we so entirely approve the process and the result, we could almost wish that a competent advocate had been permitted to spend a few minutes in commenting on a portion of the evidence. It seems a pity that so excellent an opportunity of pointing out the deplorable effects of congregational meddling with a pastor's domestic affairs, was allowed to pass unimproved. Instead of quoting BLACKSTONE, or the Pennsylvania Reports, the speaker might have referred to the chronicles of CARLINGFORD in the portion which gives the history of Salem Chapel, and describes the tribulation of certain earnest women of "the connection," when they heard of the matrimonial intentions of their bachelor preacher. But it is many years since we read that veracious narrative, and we may be wrong in fancying its facts apposite to the present case. The truth is, we suppose, that every person aware that the position of pastor, is regarded by some people, both male and female, as giving them warrant for a sort of interference with his domestic relations especially his prospective domestic relations, which in nine cases out of ten, is mere mischievous impertinence. Under the cloak of such fancied warrant, envy, malice and all uncharitableness may lie concealed, or even challenge the names of the opposite virtues. Under the false assumption that the pastor's wife is a sort of feminine pastor and regularly employed as such by the congregation, these people claim the right of directing an affair with which they have nothing to do. On the same ground on which they interfere before marriage, they often extend their guardianship of their pastor's domestic concerns beyond, much to the detriment of his comfort and usefulness. The fashion wherever it exists calls for amendment.

THE INDIANS AGAIN.

Some readers may think that we make too frequent mention of the Indian question. We are well aware that not only dedicated admirers of the old Indian policy and active sympathizers with the party who favor extermination, but others also entertain a certain dislike for the subject. The impression of many persons is that the problem to be solved is one of hopeless difficulty, and that people remote from the frontier are not likely to render any aid in its settlement. General SHERMAN may, perhaps, be quoted as having given this notion the sanction of his great name by the letter which he addressed, a few days ago, to the Indian Commission at its meeting in New York. The letter was certainly contemptuous in tone, and among other things the General said that "the Indian question can only be fairly discussed where the Indians are." It is not incomprehensible that respect for General SHERMAN to state that he sometimes writes as well as says, in his haste, rather more than he means. His mature and slowly formed views on this subject were expressed in his well known Report, and we believe that no one more than he will regret the fact, if his late letter shall be understood as discouraging popular interest in General GRANT'S pacific policy. In truth, there is no more important matter at present demanding the attention of the American people. It is an ancient theological doctrine that nations are judged and punished in time, as having no personality, they cannot be punished in eternity. The notion is neither foolish nor fanatical. THOMAS JEFFERSON, neither a fool nor a fanatic, said in reference to American slavery: "I tremble for my country, when I remember that God is just." Only the simpleton or the atheist deules that the punishment for that crime has been inflicted, and that GOD'S justice has been vindicated. With equally good reasons, in view of our treatment of the red men, we may all tremble for the nation when we think of the attributes of GOD. But there are other reasons for the agitation of the subject. The old system of intercourse with the Indians has been and still is a gigantic agency for the corruption and debasement of thousands of white men, as well as for the degradation of the Indians. Apart from all other considerations the demoralization along the entire frontier produced by this system is a powerful reason for its abandonment. In the maintenance of this system, the Indians are enlisted, and they are urged in Washington, and elsewhere, with an unscrupulous ingenuity, energy and persistence that are worthy of a better cause. Mr. WM. WELSH, of Philadelphia, in a letter to the New York meeting already referred to, says, "one of the purest and wisest men in Indian affairs assures me that forty thousand dollars would have been placed at his disposal had he last year consented to join an Indian ring." When General GRANT'S policy was first inaugurated, it was the hope of these thieves to corrupt the new agents and take them into their alliance—and it is their ignominious failure in that quarter which has driven them to adopt other means of keeping up their source of gain. These same scoundrels are also responsible in a great measure for the violation of treaties of which the United States government has been guilty. And they are, therefore, responsible for the belief which prevails universally among the Indians that no reliance can be placed upon the word of their Great Father at Washington, and that no justice is to be expected at his hands.

Just now a crisis has come in this Indian question. There is reason to believe that the threatening war which was the result of bad faith on our part and which would certainly have the effect of prolonging the old system indefinitely, has been arrested. But unless the people awake to the importance of the subject and sustain the Administration in the new policy, there will soon be rumors of fresh complications. It is certain that three-fourths of the Senate and of the House are ready to sustain the Administration in this matter; but it is in the power of a few captious and unprincipled men to embarrass and retard legislation. It is necessary for the people to act, if they desire to prevent the triumph of the men who have so long disgraced our government and our civilization in the eyes of the world. General GRANT and his Cabinet expect the co-operation of the people in sustaining and carrying on the work which they have begun. In his letter to the Indian Commission, dated the 14th instant, Mr. COX, the Secretary of the Interior, repeatedly insists on the necessity of such aid. He says:

"The one practical thing I have to say is that, in the administration of Indian affairs, as an officer of the government and in behalf of the President, I ask the organized help of the good people of the land; and I tell you plainly, that unless we have it on a scale entirely beyond anything heretofore attempted in this direction, the doom of the Indian is sealed, and the quick extermination with the sword would be a mercy compared with the influence of our civilization."

A NORTHERN man sojourning in Charleston, South Carolina, represents the white population as deeply and generally disconcerted with the political condition of the State. Though quiet, and neither practicing or countenancing violence of any kind, they do not "accept the situation" with as much cordiality as some other cities of the South. According to this correspondent, the chief ground of the prevailing dissatisfaction is the corruption which is believed to exist in the administration of affairs. He represents one gentleman saying as he read his newspaper, "Look at this! Here is a man appointed Trial Justice in my county yesterday by Gov. SCOTT, who was, only a few weeks ago, pardoned out of jail by this same Governor. He was put in jail for robbery, on the verdict of a jury more than half negroes, on the clearest evidence. He has been guilty of every petty crime; he is habitually drunk; his habits and associates are of the very lowest order; his vote has been bought again and again for fifty cents, and his decision as a judge can be had any day for what it will bring. What sort of justice are we likely to have in my county?" We should say the fountain of justice in that county is not likely to send forth very pure waters. Cases like this, or nearly as bad, are alleged by the discontented class to be very common. And no one, we suppose, who reflects upon the past opportunities and training of the freedmen, and who takes into account the character of many of the adventurers who have gone into South Carolina to improve their circumstances, will think such allegations very unlikely to be true. Is, then, the discontent of the high minded men of the State very unreasonable? On the contrary, it would be strange if they regarded their condition as anything but as a sort of purgatory. The most interesting portion of this correspondent's letter is the statement that leading white citizens are preparing to form a new party in favor of political and moral reform. They hope to secure the vote of the negroes of pure race, by rousing their resentment against an administration which has been excessively partial to mulattoes and quadroons. This is the first intimation we have seen of an attempt in the South to use a form of jealousy which, in other countries, has led to important results. In Hayti for instance.

A WRITER in the Newark (N. J.) *Advertiser,* referring to the State of Florida, says:

"This State can scarcely be said to have ever been thoroughly settled at all. The population of the Union in territorial extent, with an area of 50,000 square miles, nearly as large as the whole of New England its population to day scarcely exceeds 140,000 souls—more than the population of Lexington city or Newark. Of its 20,000,000 of acres, less than 3,000,000 have ever been set off into farms! And nearly the whole of these are now in the market, as shown by the tax collectors for the payment of taxes. I cannot learn that there is a single plantation in this State now under anything like full cultivation. Along the rivers, and about the lakes, for hundreds of miles, the most spacious and beautiful tide-water on the continent, I am told that there are only a dozen cultivated farms, and this comprises the richest and most attractive regions of the State. Seven-eighths of which are still covered with the primeval forests."

The day is at hand when Florida will leap ahead in the march of improvement. With its vast capabilities of soil, climate, rivers and forests it cannot be otherwise. Already shrewd men from the North are turning their attention to this State, which in extent is nearly equal to all New England. It is estimated that within the last year not less than twenty thousand persons have visited the regions watered by the St. Johns. Many made permanent investments to which they will soon return, and not a few have remained to grow fruit and cotton and manufacture lumber, cultivate the cane, engage in trade, or enter upon mechanical pursuits. No one doubts the prospect. Within the next ten years the oranges of Florida, superior to any others, will be found in all our markets. Hundreds of groves are being set out, which in from five to seven years will be at maturity. The pineries are of almost unlimited extent and quality. The proper management of the soil of Eastern Florida, with reference to small fruits and perhaps general agriculture, is a problem which will not long want a solution. Capital is fast finding its way into railroads and seeking other investments. Jacksonville, the principal city of the State, is enjoying a rapid growth. Between two and three hundred buildings, generally of an excellent character, have been constructed there within the last year or are under way. Many more are projected, and real estate has an activity something like that of Chicago when that city took the start which it has held ever since. That the population of the city—which at present is about ten thousand—is to increase rapidly, and become very considerable, is not questioned. A very large part of the influx of strangers the last winter either made Jacksonville the whole time they remained from their Northern homes or made it the base of operations while they found their way up the beautiful St. Johns river or diverged into other parts of the State. This human tide came from nearly every State, but the Northern Seaboard was most numerously represented. Those that returned did so with nothing but praises on their lips,—very many with the deliberately formed purpose to go back with an army of recruits, to become permanent residents or enjoy for a season the advantages of the incomparable climate. A well formed emigration system, independent of these influences, promises to supply Florida with a thrifty population, whose well-directed labor for a single day will produce more than three and four in almost any other part of the country.

THE Philadelphia *North American* is added to the list of influential papers now in favor of a revision of the Constitution as the only means of preventing Legislative corruption. When the COMMERCIAL started the ball the prediction was made that it would acquire momentum, though slowly at first, from the Republican press of the State. We have not been disappointed. Our Philadelphia contemporary refers to Ohio as proof of the efficacy of such a remedy; points to the action of the Illinois Convention as encouragement for ourselves, and to the following condensed statement of the provisions of the new Constitution about to be submitted to the people of that State, as worthy of our early imitation:

"Special legislation is prohibited upon all classes of subjects which can be provided for by general law.

No corporation shall be created or have its charter renewed or extended by special law.

No law shall be passed granting an irrevocable grant of special privileges.

Every bill passed by the Legislature must take an oath that he has not expended any money, or been privy to any promise of any corruption to be used at his election, and that he will not accept any gift or other compensation for his services, except the pay of the Legislature, for any vote he may give or withhold, or any action he may take in his official capacity, or the oath to disqualify the person from ever holding any State office thereafter. Candidates for the Legislature are required to take the same oath, and when they are assessed by campaign committees.

All bills for appropriations shall be read at length before the by are passed.

The Illinois General Assembly shall take effect until the first of July following its passage, unless by a vote of two-thirds of each house it is put in operation immediately.

The Legislature is to add to the State debt, unless for war purposes, is limited to the sum of $250,000.

The total expenditure for the new State House is limited to $3,000,000.

The State shall never pay, assume or become responsible for any debt or liability of any kind in aid of or to credit to any public or other corporation or individual, nor shall it release any indebtedness due to the State.

The State shall never be made defendant in any suit at law or in equity.

No officer shall have his term of office extended by law after his election.

The pay of the members of the Legislature to be fixed by the Constitution, and no Legislature can change such compensation except for future Legislatures. All salaries, allowances for stationery, newspapers and other perquisites shall be limited to $50 for each member.

There is to be no restriction upon the duration of the sessions of the General Assembly.

A vote of two-thirds of each house is required to pass a bill over the Governor, instead of a majority, as at present."

It will be the duty of the Republicans in presenting legislative candidates, to bring forward none that are not sound on this question, and we quite agree with our Philadelphia contemporary in the following suggestion.

"The true way to make a legislature reform, as far as we can, is to Republicanize one—to ram a sweeping amendment to the constitution of the Commonwealth through the Legislature, in the shape given above, or as are contained in the Constitution of Illinois, and then to have the Union ticket headed by the Republican gene al commit tee of the city and State, and make the Republican party ratify candidate for the Legislature march square up to the chalk and define his position for or against it."

AMERICANS who read are, we fancy, always pleased to hear of M. LABOULAYE, the author of *Paris in America.* A few days ago, we stated that before the late election, he had written a letter to a friend, in which he gave reasons why he intended to vote affirmatively on the plebiscite. The unpleasant consequences of the publication of that letter afford an interesting illustration of the intensity, one may say, the ferocity of party spirit among the so-called French Liberals. They presently started the story in the newspapers that M. LABOULAYE'S son had been appointed First Secretary of Legation at Constantinople as a reward for his father's infidelity to the popular cause. The son, PAUL LABOULAYE, has been fifteen years in the diplomatic service, and his appointment to Constantinople was made out and signed by Count DARU, months before his father's letter, advising an affirmative vote, was written—LABOULAYE has experienced another proof of the blindness with which the Radicals remember past services. A few evenings before the election, at a meeting in Versailles, he attempted to state his reasons for his intended vote, when he was repeatedly interrupted and insulted, and finally got a hearing with the greatest difficulty. Finally, it is expected that the students of the College of France, in which he is a professor, will treat him as the medical students treated Dr. TARDIEU.

GEN. SHERMAN'S expressions, if not purposes, sometimes invite sharp criticism. His imperious nature renders him essentially despotic. His lack of sense in undertaking to fight the settled convictions of men, his contempt for whatever he does not like, render him an unsafe adviser, more especially in matters quite of military affairs. The General's letter to the recent meeting in New York concerning Indian affairs, is an instance in point, and it is not at all surprising that he should suffer under the almost universal comment of the press. At one time General SHERMAN'S influence with General GRANT was considerable. There is reason to believe, however, that it is not as great as it was. It would be a gratification to many true friends of Gen. GRANT and his administration to be assured that in the future it will be even less.

"WOMEN SUFFRAGE" was defeated in Vermont by an overwhelming vote. "Just for the fun of the thing," the question was raised in Royalton in that State, with the following result:

Number of women in the district	82
Wanted the suffrage	11
Did not want it	53
Did not care	11
Not at home	7

The fact that only one woman out of eighty-two was not at home, indicates, we believe, that the Royalton district is one of the best and most virtuous in the State.

EDWARD LABOULAYE is not, after all, Napoleon's new Minister of Public Instruction. M. Mege, a member of the Corps Legislatif, has been gazetted in the official journal of Paris as the newly appointed Minister. This gentleman, unknown in this country, possesses the negative merit of having nothing against him. On the other hand, Laboulaye has a cosmopolitan reputation, and has been favorably received in the United States for his opposition to slavery, long before it became a decided test question, and for his championship of human rights and justice throughout the rebellion.

THE ladies of Beaufort, in South Carolina, who were deprived of their famous shaving the war, have established a new branch of home industry in making into preserves the green oranges produced on the plantations, which are skilfully prepared, put into glass jars and sent North for a market. There are ten varieties of this description of sweet meat which is said to be excellent. James Lowndes, Esq., a lawyer of that city, is acting as agent for them.

A LUSUS NATURÆ was recently born in Williamsburg, New York, being a child with a head shaped like a horse. The parents are very poor and finding it inconvenient to rear such a monster without expense beyond their means, have left on exhibition in New York, depending on the charity of visitors to compensate them for this extraordinary sight.

THE Hon. Jeremiah Black, it is announced, will appear in the next number of the *Galaxy,* in an article in which he will take issue with the recent article of Hon. Henry Wilson in the *Atlantic,* detailing in part the Cabinet history of 1860-61.

"OUR RAILROAD PROGRAMME."

A Philadelphia View of the Connellsville, Baltimore and Ohio and other Roads—And of Pittsburgh.

The Philadelphia *North American,* in speaking of the completion of the Connellsville Railroad in November next, and of the proposed organization of a new line of railroad from Pittsburgh to Chicago to connect with it, under the name of the Baltimore, Pittsburgh and Continental Railroad, adverts to the past present and future relations existing between the Pennsylvania and Baltimore and Ohio and Connellsville Railroads, and the results of the gigantic efforts of these enterprising corporations. It says that for many years an amicable understanding, though not a written one, prevails between the Baltimore and Ohio and the Pennsylvania Railroad Companies that neither should interfere with the other's field of operations, which, for some years, was scrupulously adhered to, and proved eminently successful in preventing the inroads of the New York monopolies. The Hempfield connection was frustrated by the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, because it would take from the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad the trade of the Wheeling route, and the former directed its whole attention to the building of railways in Pennsylvania, and to connections with the lakes and central regions of Ohio, Indiana and Illinois. The Baltimore and Ohio Company on its side faithfully adhered to the compact, and did not enter Pennsylvania, but confined their operations to the lakes; and the long continued neglect of the Pittsburgh and Connellsville Railroad, and of the Hempfield is attributable to the fidelity with which the agreement was adhered to. But, says the *North American,* the irascible and impracticable character of the city of Pittsburgh broke through the agreement and compelled these two great corporations to enter into a field of competition with each other. Pittsburgh struggled for the prize of the Connellsville Railroad, but Baltimore, knowing the cost, did not feel much inclination to rejoice over it. The Pennsylvania Railroad then completed the Pan-Handle route, grasped everything between Ohio, Indiana and Illinois leading to Cincinnati, Indianopolis, St. Louis or Chicago, and is now the dominant power in the three great States west of us. It has crossed the Ohio and controls a through line to New Orleans, *via* Louisville and Nashville, and it is no exaggeration to say that while the Baltimore Company has no power at all in Kentucky and Tennessee, the Pennsylvania is active and influential. Not only this, but the great Pennsylvania corporation has under its auspices three different projected lines still further Westward and to the South, to Parkersburg, Huntington and Charleston, another carries the Cumberland Valley Railroad down the Shenandoah Valley through Virginia to a connection with the Virginia and Tennessee Railroad, and still another, called the Baltimore and Potomac Railroad makes a connection with the Northern Central, *avoiding Baltimore,* and strikes through Maryland to the Potomac, and through Eastern Virginia. This, says the *North American,* is the price the Baltimore Company will have to pay for the Pittsburgh connection, which was known before and in Philadelphia and Baltimore, but Pittsburgh was resolutely ignorant on the subject. We cannot say we regret the course of events, although being willing to see our neighbors flourish, we had no disposition to interfere with Baltimore. This whole trouble would have been avoided if Pittsburgh had acquiesced in the transfer of the unfinished Connellsville line to the proposed Southern Pennsylvania route, which would have made a new through railroad, traversing the entire southern chain of counties tributary to Pittsburgh and Philadelphia. Not having done so, we have provided railroads from those counties leading to Philadelphia.

THE report of the House Committee on Manufactures successfully controverts the position of Commissioner Wells, who has lately become the recipient of the most fulsome eulogy by the free traders, and whose statements have been quoted by them as if he had a daughter in the Custom House. The committee express the belief that his report could only have been written in the interest of foreign producers and manufacturers, and that its suggestions and recommendations, if followed by consequent legislation, would be hostile to the best interests of the country. Among the many inconsistencies of Mr. Wells is mentioned his assumption that the farmer is oppressed by the present tariff, whereas, in the first report of this same Commissioner, Mr. Wells, for 1868, attempted to show that for many years, under the operations of the same tariff and currency, the farmer had reaped undue profits. But Mr. Wells is now playing an important political part in making his untruthful statements, which are evidently designed to excite jealousy between our agricultural and manufacturing interests. The report of the committee takes direct issue with the Wells's misstatements in reference to the prices, costs and aggregate values of manufactures, and shows conclusively the deplorable ignorance of the Commissioner of Statistics in reference to wool, cotton, pig iron, etc., and notices the suppression of certain facts by Mr. Wells, which would go to disprove his arguments. The Committee further objects to Mr. Wells's report that it unfairly and untruthfully depreciates the condition of our artisans and laborers, endeavoring to create the impression that, through the operations of the present tariff and the present currency system, labor does not command the same comforts as in former years ago, when the fact is patent to all that they are the equal of the people during the past ten years, notwithstanding the drain of a great war, has been most marvelous and wholly unprecedented, and while it contains any detailed exhibition of the growth of our manufactures under the existing tariff system, and it endeavors to cast suspicion and odium upon all those manufactures whose growth and strength belong to their country, unpatriotically seeking to establish the principle that dependence upon foreign manufactures is our natural condition, and that it would be puerile in all enlightened nations whose civilization has been built and whose people have prospered by it; a protective policy of our own country, established since the formation of the Government, has been the only policy which has prospered, and every departure from which has resulted in the enforced idleness of the laboring classes, individual suffering and bankruptcy, and loss of national credit and revenue.

This report conveys a strong censure on this free trade commissioner, and, coming from seven of the nine members of the committee, is invested with an influence in thus being officially communicated to Congress that may well be considered potent to Mr. Wells, who, having originally derived his official position at Washington from President Johnson, has had little cause to complain of his fidelity and zealous efforts in behalf of foreign interests certainly do not entitle him to much weight with the present administration.

MR. PUSEY, the Commissioner of Statistics of Minnesota, has prepared a tabular statement which exhibits the most unprecedented and startling growth of that State. In 1850 the total area of the State was less than 2,000 acres. In 1849 it was 1,750,000 acres, an increase of over 800 per cent. As late as 1858 the State imported food. The next year the State grew nearly two and a half millions of bushels, and in 1869 the crop was 18,500,000 bushels. Population has increased from 172,000 in 1860 to 450,000 in 1870. We subjoin a few of the figures of Mr. Pusey, which are very interesting:

Increase of cultivated area in blue grs, per cent.	200
Increase in population	170
Increase in value of manufactures	245
Total value of real estate	$120,000,000
Total value of personal property	65,000,000
Grand total	$185,000,000

The number of land and lot owners in 1869 is 110,701, or more than the whole number of voters, a striking contrast with the condition of England where half the soil is owned by five hundred men.

THE Suez Canal has not proved as complete a triumph as was anticipated. Many difficulties in the shoal sea of the canal have presented themselves irrespective of the tolls. Several vessels have lately arrived at Calcutta in a sad plight in consequence of the intolerable heat. One vessel reached that port with every stoker dead and several of the native stokers employed on the P. and P. steamers had to succumb to the heat. They were sometimes hauled up on deck perfectly insensible, or in the convulsions of a fit of madness. There is not a breath of air at such times in this fearful sea; rain has perhaps not fallen for several years, and even the young and the vigorous find all the vital powers tried to the severest limits.

"WOMEN SUFFRAGE" was defeated in Vermont by an overwhelming vote. "Just for the fun of the thing," the question was raised in Royalton in that State, with the following result:

Number of women in the district	82
Wanted the suffrage	11
Did not want it	53
Did not care	11
Not at home	7

The fact that only one woman out of eighty-two was not at home, indicates, we believe, that the Royalton district is one of the best and most virtuous in the State.

EDWARD LABOULAYE is not, after all, Napoleon's new Minister of Public Instruction. M. Mege, a member of the Corps Legislatif, has been gazetted in the official journal of Paris as the newly appointed Minister. This gentleman, unknown in this country, possesses the negative merit of having nothing against him. On the other hand, Laboulaye has a cosmopolitan reputation, and has been favorably received in the United States for his opposition to slavery, long before it became a decided test question, and for his championship of human rights and justice throughout the rebellion.

THE ladies of Beaufort, in South Carolina, who were deprived of their famous shaving the war, have established a new branch of home industry in making into preserves the green oranges produced on the plantations, which are skilfully prepared, put into glass jars and sent North for a market. There are ten varieties of this description of sweet meat which is said to be excellent. James Lowndes, Esq., a lawyer of that city, is acting as agent for them.

A LUSUS NATURÆ was recently born in Williamsburg, New York, being a child with a head shaped like a horse. The parents are very poor and finding it inconvenient to rear such a monster without expense beyond their means, have left on exhibition in New York, depending on the charity of visitors to compensate them for this extraordinary sight.

THE Hon. Jeremiah Black, it is announced, will appear in the next number of the *Galaxy,* in an article in which he will take issue with the recent article of Hon. Henry Wilson in the *Atlantic,* detailing in part the Cabinet history of 1860-61.

OVER NICE.

A Traitor Standing on the Order of his Treason.

General Magruder denies a statement of General Cameron, made in the Senate on the 5th ult., that he had intended to transfer the battery of which he had the command on the opening of the rebellion to the service of the rebel army, after pledging himself to President Lincoln to stand by him during the war. This General Magruder, who is very severe in his comments on General Cameron, pronounces a "monstrous, malicious, reckless and infamous lie." He explains that he had a perfect understanding with President Lincoln at the time as to his course, saying to the President that if his State, Virginia, seceded he would fight for those among whom he was born and bred, his relations and friends, who believed they were right; that he would be true and faithful to the obligations of his commission as long as he held it, and that the President and his family should sleep in safety whenever he was on guard. The President replied, "Well, I know it; you are an officer of the army, and a Southern gentleman, and incapable of any but honorable conduct." General Magruder then thanked the President and said: "If I do resign you shall be the first to hear of it after my resignation is placed in the hands of the Adjutant." "Why," said the President, "should you do that?" to which General Magruder replied: "I wish to be gracefully off with the old love before I am on with the new." The President expressed his sorrow at his loss; but said, "if you must go, I will help you to be gracefully off with the old love." A day or two after Virginia seceded, Magruder resigned and repaired to the White House, where he failed to get admission, but a brother officer promised to inform the President next morning of his resignation. He immediately repaired to Long Bridge, which was guarded by his own battery, and at his request the officer incommand lowered the bridge to let him pass, remarking "Colonel, I will lower the drawbridge, but I would do it with far greater pleasure if you were coming *from* Virginia instead of going *to* Virginia." He stepped at Alexandria a day and a night, where he received the acceptance of his resignation, which he always thought was by order of Mr. Lincoln himself.

THE FRENCH MINISTRY.

Sketches of the New Members.

We give below brief sketches of the new members of the French Ministry, as reported by a cable telegram from Paris. As will be seen, they